**Student Voice in Partnership: Good practice case study**

## Context

The Archaeology Institute offers both undergraduate and postgraduate courses taught via a combination of face-to-face and video conference seminars as well as online study through the university’s Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Students are enrolled across 10 of the academic partners.

Feedback from students about their learning experience is gathered through University surveys (such as the National Student Survey and end of module surveys). In addition, a series of Open Feedback Sessions have also been introduced. These sessions provide students with an opportunity to provide feedback directly to the Programme Leader.

## Open Feedback Sessions

Open Feedback Sessions are run for one hour twice a semester and are open for both undergraduate and postgraduate students to attend to openly discuss any issues and concerns they have with the programme as well as to put in requests.

The sessions are held over video conference using a VC code that isn’t recorded so that all student comments can stay anonymous. The Programme Leader then raises the feedback and questions on behalf of the students during teaching team meetings.

Conversations during the sessions are based around three main themes – 1. What would you like us to start doing? 2. What would you like us to stop doing? 3. What would you like us to continue to do?

The students who attend usually raise concerns about modules, and that feedback is then passed on to module leaders anonymously. Issues about resources also feature strongly at these sessions, for example the limited number of library books in one of the colleges has been a big issue and also the function of Multi-Search on the library e-resources. To respond to the latter issue the Programme Leader set up a meeting with the UHI Library Team and the students to go through the library e-resources uses and limitations.

Students are also able to make requests during the sessions. For example, based on student feedback the Programme Leader has organised a workshop session for semester two on ‘applying for Masters courses’. A session on ‘dissertation topics’ was ran the previous year at the request of students and this will be run again this year.

The sessions also provide an opportunity to pass information on to students, for example fieldtrip dates and excavation skills dates etc.

Session attendance is usually between 4-10 students per session, with the idea being that students can come in and drop out at any time they wish, so they don’t have to commit to attending the whole hour if they don’t wish to. Students often attend if they have questions they want to ask and occasionally positive comments are received too.

In terms of reporting back on any actions being taken, the Programme Leader usually begins each session by advising the students what has been done with regards to the previous sessions’ feedback. This information is also provided on the programme Brightspace areas to ensure that all students are aware of how feedback is being responded to.