Things to consider when incorporating sustainability into your professional practice

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Outline

- Sustainability at the University of Edinburgh (UoE)
- My Sustainability 'journey'
- Sustainability and my teaching context
- Incorporating Sustainability – 2 considerations
- 4 'take-home' pieces of advice
- Useful resources

Sustainability at UoE

- The University of Edinburgh's 'Strategy 2030'
- The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- 'Zero by 2040' and many other initiatives

Our focus

To make the greatest impact we will focus on four key areas, each shaped by our values.

People

Research

Teaching and Learning

Social and Civic Responsibility

Nothing ordinary comes from this extraordinary place

4th in the world   1st in the UK

QS World University Rankings: Sustainability

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

Open to the world

My Sustainability 'journey'

- The Department of Social Responsibility & Sustainability (SRS)
- 'Be Sustainable' online course
- Sustrans 'Active Travel Champion'
- 'Be Sustainable – Advanced' –> personal project
- UoE's 'Sustainability Awards' (Bronze, Silver, Gold)
- Learning for Sustainability Scotland (LfSS)
- *Continued involvement with these schemes and others (e.g. Friday coffee, 'Teaching Matters' blog, THE Campus, guerrilla gardening, lunchtime walks, etc)*

Sustainability and EAP

- EAP Teaching Fellow for English Language Education (ELE) as part of the Centre for Open Learning (COL).

- (Mostly) students who speak English as a second language.

- 'AGE Online' from April to June 2020. Used '**Develop EAP: A Sustainable Academic English Skills course**'.

- Essay tasks based on a variety of sustainability issues (e.g. impact of meat consumption on climate change, taxing the use of single-use disposable cups, etc).

- Students consider recent issues, select sources, and describe and evaluate potential solutions. Each stage involves critical thinking skills.

- Seminar Discussion Skills – using the SDGs as a prompt.

- Practice listening test – Sustainability at the University of Edinburgh.

Incorporating Sustainability

Two questions to consider (following this session):

1. Think about ways that you *already* refer to **issues** addressed by the SDGs in your teaching/work (directly or indirectly).

2. Do you refer to the SDGs **directly**?
   If so, which ones? If not, are there ways in which you could? Which ones would you choose and why? What challenges might you face?

4 'take-home' pieces of advice

1) You cannot realistically become an expert in every SDG.

2) Find out if your place of work has a dedicated sustainability department or individual.

3) Speak to your Line Manager about your interests.

4) Find things happening at your place of work relating to sustainability.

Useful resources

1. The UN SDG Homepage: www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/

2. The University of Edinburgh's 'Strategy 2030' overview and detail: https://www.ed.ac.uk/about/strategy-2030

3. The Department of Social Responsibility and Sustainability (SRS) homepage: https://www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability

4. Institute for Academic Development (IAD) 'Teaching Matters' blog: https://www.teaching-matters-blog.ed.ac.uk/

5. Times Higher Education (THE) Campus (Key topic = SDGs): https://www.timeshighereducation.com/campus/keywords/sdgs-0

6. Learning for Sustainability Scotland (LfSS) homepage: http://learningforsustainabilityscotland.org/

7. Resources related more specifically to teaching English for Academic Purposes (EAP): https://developeap.weebly.com/resources.html

Thank you for listening.

I would be interested to hear your thoughts, comments, and sustainability stories.

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