



8th European Quality Assurance Forum
21-23 November 2013
Working together to take quality forward

**Working together: students as partners.
Student engagement and representation
across the quality agenda**

Introduction and outline

- This workshop aims to -
 - consider how students are engaged in the quality agenda
 - explore the idea of students as partners
 - reflect on what a quality culture partnership looks like and identify good practice
- Discussion and key points



Quality assurance in UK

The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)*

- Purpose - safeguarding standards and improving the quality of UK higher education

QAA aims to:

- put students at the heart of everything we do...
- promote students as active participants in shaping their own education...

Student engagement is about giving all students the opportunity and encouragement to get involved in quality assurance and the enhancement of higher education.



Quality agenda?

What do we mean by a quality agenda?

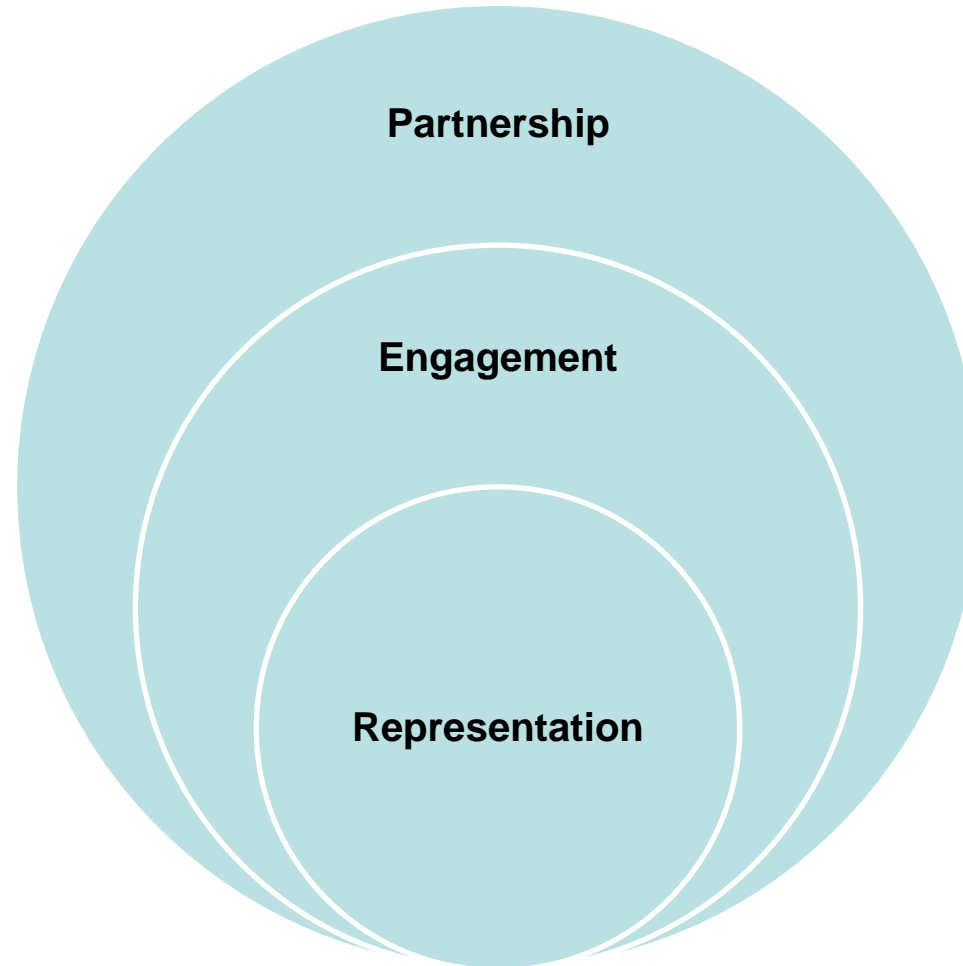
- embedding practices into the design of education
- innovative ways of helping students achieve learning outcomes
- promoting student engagement in all areas

and

- to meet /shape students' expectations
- clear communication about standards
- listening and responding to diverse views and needs of students



What is the context...



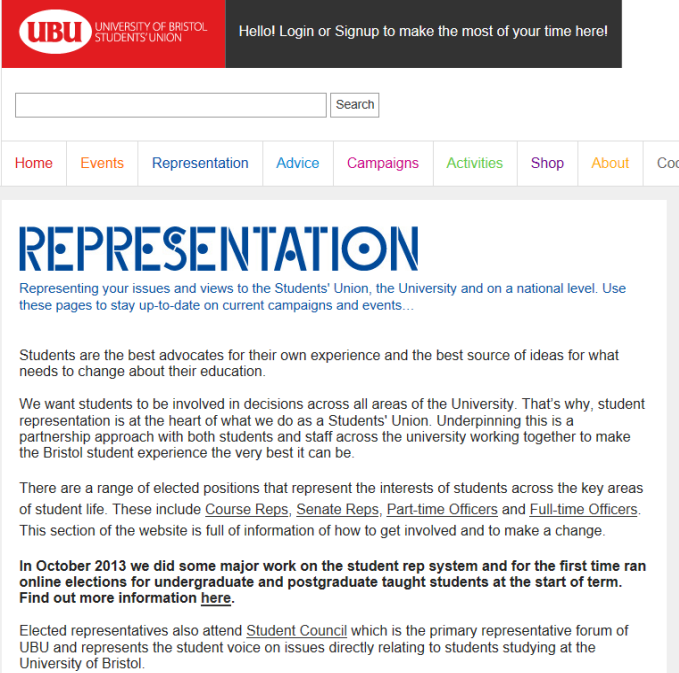
Student representation

- Students electing fellow student reps
- Students attending meetings to discuss and feed back issues/ideas
- Students completing questionnaires/surveys



Why are we interested?

- new student-driven Reps system
- Student support model
new Senior Tutors network



UBU UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL STUDENTS' UNION Hello! Login or Signup to make the most of your time here!

Search

Home Events Representation Advice Campaigns Activities Shop About Coc

REPRESENTATION

Representing your issues and views to the Students' Union, the University and on a national level. Use these pages to stay up-to-date on current campaigns and events...

Students are the best advocates for their own experience and the best source of ideas for what needs to change about their education.

We want students to be involved in decisions across all areas of the University. That's why, student representation is at the heart of what we do as a Students' Union. Underpinning this is a partnership approach with both students and staff across the university working together to make the Bristol student experience the very best it can be.

There are a range of elected positions that represent the interests of students across the key areas of student life. These include [Course Reps](#), [Senate Reps](#), [Part-time Officers](#) and [Full-time Officers](#). This section of the website is full of information of how to get involved and to make a change.

In October 2013 we did some major work on the student rep system and for the first time ran online elections for undergraduate and postgraduate taught students at the start of term. Find out more information [here](#).

Elected representatives also attend [Student Council](#) which is the primary representative forum of UBU and represents the student voice on issues directly relating to students studying at the University of Bristol.

🌟 What is student engagement?

- ‘process whereby institutions and sector bodies make **deliberate attempts** to involve and empower students in the **process of shaping the learning experience**’ (1)

It is about students:

- getting involved
- raising their views
- feeling empowered
- shaping their education.

Skip to: [main content](#) | [section navigation](#)



[Home](#) > [News & events](#) > [News archive](#) > 2013

News archive

2013

New student engagement unit to be launched

02 July 2013

A new higher education student engagement partnership unit, hosted by the National Union of Students (NUS), will work to involve students more fully as partners in their own higher education.



The unit is jointly funded by HEFCE, NUS, the Association of Colleges and GuildHE. It will work to support a vision of students and their representative bodies as partners in the educational experience. It will support students' active involvement as partners in the development, management and governance of their institution, its academic programmes and their enhancement, and in their own learning. It will provide a unique partnership between students, NUS, students' unions, universities and colleges, sector bodies and higher education funders. The unit is expected to be launched in autumn 2013.

Why student engagement..

We think it is important

Why?

- enhances the individual learning experience
- become part of the learning community
- connecting with others and working with peers
- a voice to enable influence & improve practices
- shaping /contributing to the direction of learning

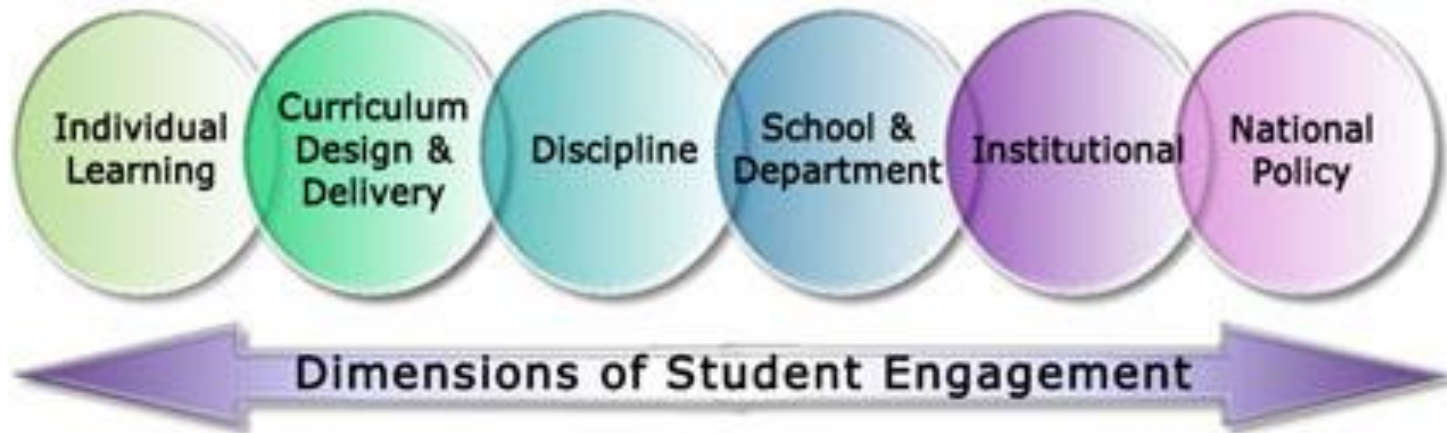


Activity 1: Engaging students

- Do you think it is important to engage students?
- If so, what are the barriers to involving students in the quality agenda?

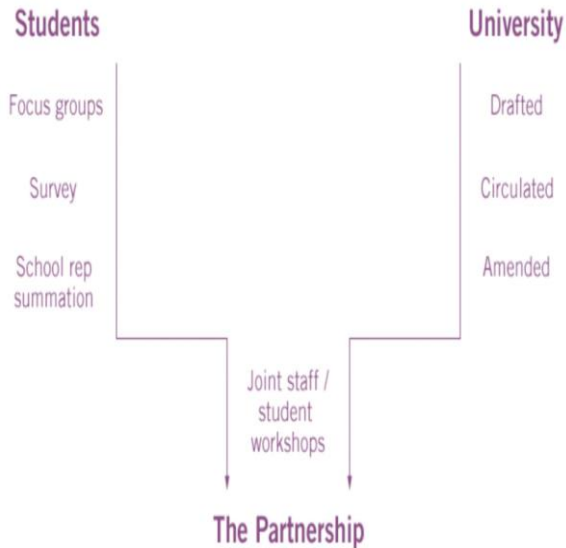


🌟 Spectrum of student engagement



What is a partnership?

Different ideas and approaches....



Teaching and Learning Support Office


- ▲ Teaching and Learning Support Office
- Students As Partners**
 - ▶ Peer Support
 - ▶ Student Consultations
 - ▶ Sabbatical Interns
 - ▶ Events
 - ▶ Student Team Working Awards

Students As Partners

'Students as Partners' (SaP) is a programme of work managed by the Teaching and Learning Support Office in liaison with the Faculties.

SaP coordinates and maintains the quality of Peer Support (Peer Mentoring and Peer Assisted Study Schemes) across the University.

SaP supports and facilitates student-led activity, encouraging students to take a holistic approach to their learning and development, concentrating on the total student experience and recognising co-curricular learning opportunities as well as those available through the curriculum.

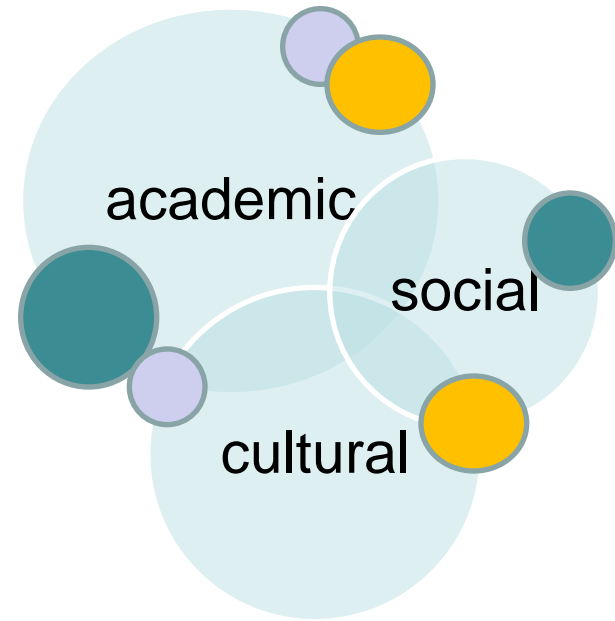


PLanT Project
Partnerships in Learning and Teaching

What is a PLanT project?
A PLanT project is a teaching and learning initiative, giving you the opportunity to work with staff to design and implement a project which will enhance and develop aspects of your course. This could range from the delivery and design of a module to considering the resources used to teach.

Where is the partnership?
The partnership is between you and a member or members of staff. Funding of up to £500 is available from the Centre for Quality, Support & Development (CQSD) for joint project proposals from students and staff. This means you are able to work with staff on projects which may lead to real change within your Department!

How to get involved?
Applications for PLanT project funding can be made from 1st October 2015, with the last application to be received by 1st April 2016. All applications will be reviewed by RQSD and CQSD.
To apply, email Dr Maura O'Regan (CQSD) at m.oregan@reading.ac.uk
For more information visit www.cqsd.ac.uk/plantproject or speak to Emma Jackson at education@lrc.leeds.ac.uk



Key elements in partnership

- Elements in building student partnership*
 - Students feeling part of a supportive institution
 - Students engaging in their own learning
 - Students working with their institution in shaping the direction of learning
 - Formal mechanisms for quality and governance
 - Influencing the student experience at local/national level



Activity 2: Partnership culture

- **How do we overcome the barriers** to achieve student engagement and a partnership culture in the quality agenda?
- *You might want to think about this in relation to key stakeholders.*



A Scottish model

Features of Effective Student Engagement / Partnership*

- Culture of engagement
- Students as partners
- Recognition of diversity
- Valuing the student contribution
- Appropriate resources and support
- Focus on enhancement and change

What more can we do?

- **Student engagement / responsibilities**
 - representation at all levels of school, faculty, university committees
 - membership of faculty quality teams and school review panels

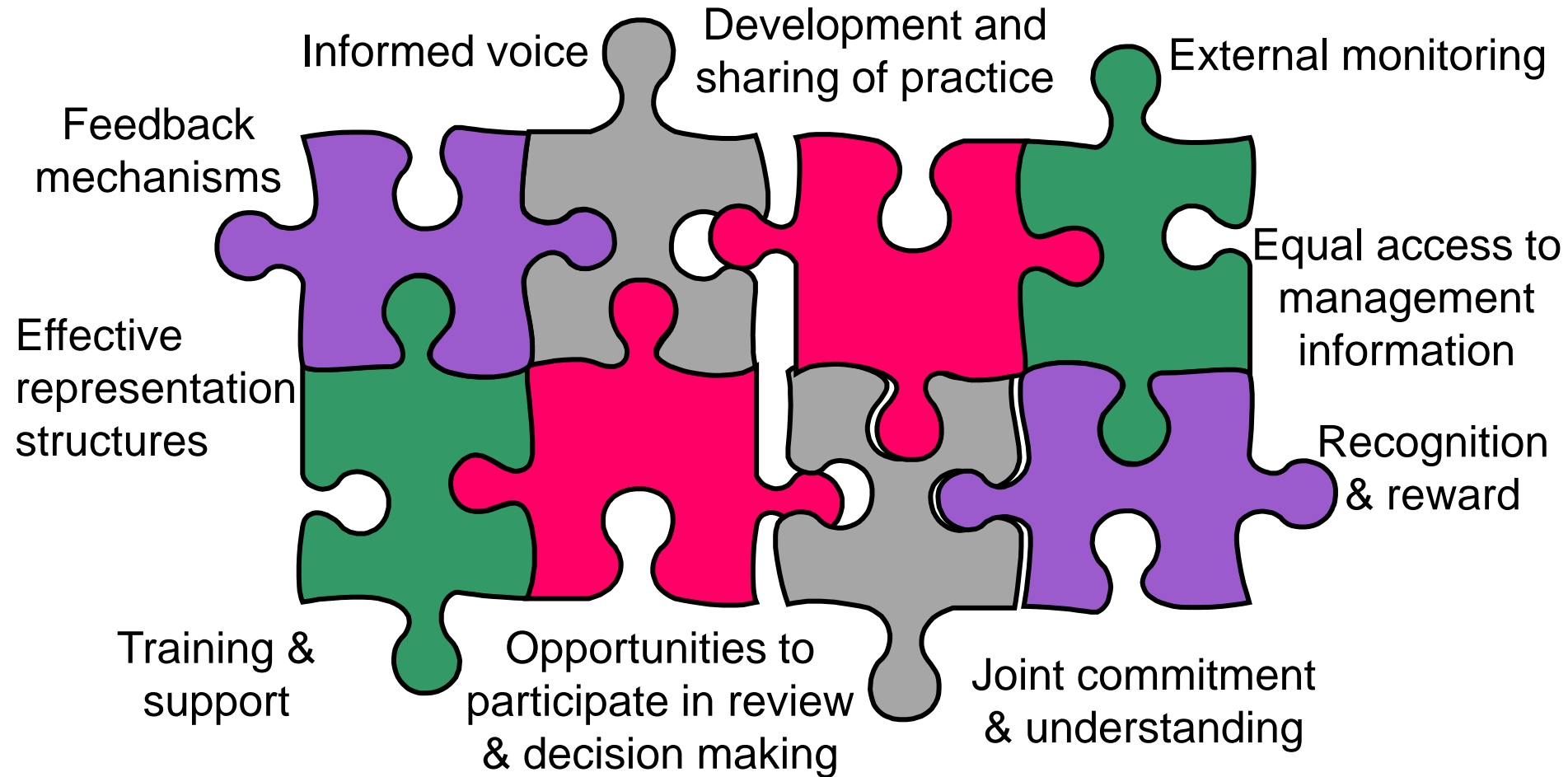
Student Navigation Network

- Peer Mentoring/ Peer Assisted Study Sessions

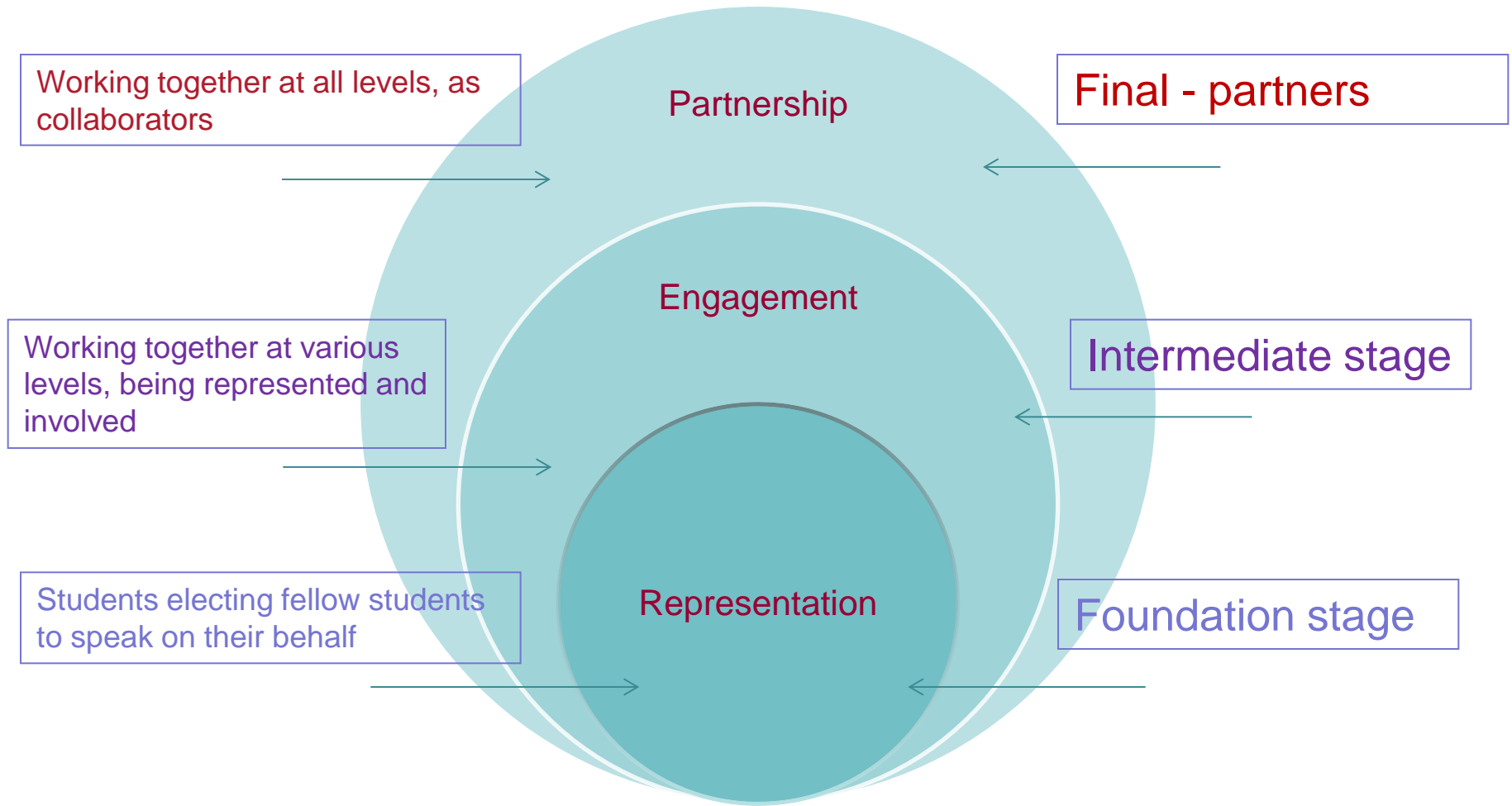
- **Bristol Teaching Awards**



🔥 Fitting things together...



🌿 What is the context...



Activity 3: What should it look like?

- In exploring student engagement/partnership, what one or two things that we discussed might you go away and explore further or try to implement?
- Can you think of examples of good practice from your own institution that you would suggest to others?



Finally.....

- We hope you have had an opportunity to think about and explore ideas for student engagement and partnership and that you will take some ideas back to your home institution.
- Thank you for coming.

