

TOWARDS FLEXIBILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Title and Presenter:

What are the implications of the built environment on the learning and teaching practices at The University of Hull?

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Sub Theme & Paper Type:

Flexible Spaces – Workshop

Abstract:

An opportunity to look at alternative more flexible configurations of teaching space that would accurately reflect the changing nature of learning and teaching in HE today. The existing campus shapes the rooms we teach in and consequently the ways we teach. Difficulties arise when requirements for flexibility in terms of rooms, space and equipment, and the periods of time the rooms are required for on a daily, weekly, semester and yearly basis have to fit into a space not designed for such patterns of delivery.

Staff from Facilities, IFL and FASS will contribute to this workshop which provides an ideal opportunity for staff from all faculties and departments to contribute to the evolving Master Plan and on-going programme of General Teaching Rooms Upgrade scheduled for the summer of 2009 and 2010. As part of a conference that examines opportunities for new flexible curricula and more flexible patterns of delivery, this provides an opportunity for you to consider the implications such developments may have in terms of changing learning/teaching spaces to adapt to the needs of the future.

Questions to be posed to workshop participants will include issues such as the following:

What do you want from the spaces you teach in? In an ideal world (with a limitless cheque book) what would your ideal teaching environment look like? What equipment is most suitable for your teaching? What do you need in your faculty? Do you do group work and so require the ability to move the furniture easily? Do you require natural light because your classes are held in 3-hour blocks? Would you prefer no windows so your students are not distracted? How do the facilities that are currently provided restrict how you want to teach?

Join the debate about what is important about the teaching and learning spaces that we provide now and should create for the future. This is your opportunity to contribute to the next phase of development of the campus environment in which you work and so will enable you to influence the direction of the General Teaching Rooms Upgrade project being delivered by the Estates and Building Team.