

Keynote Presentation

Enhancing Student Retention and Success: Work Works?

Dr. Liz Austen and Dr. Rebecca Hodgson (Sheffield Hallam University)

A team of researchers from Sheffield Hallam University recently published '[Access, retention, attainment and progression: a review of the literature 2016-2021](#)' as part of the [Advance HE Connect Benefit Series 2021-22 on Student Success](#). This international review explored evidence-based policy or practice that had a demonstrable impact on student outcomes. Dr Liz Austen and Dr Rebecca Hodgson will draw on the findings from this review to discuss 'what works' to enhance student retention and success. They will ask participants to apply the findings from the review to the Teesside context, provide opportunities for discussion, and conclude with some thoughts on 'where next' for the higher education sector.

About our keynote presenters:

Dr Liz Austen is Head of Evaluation and Research (Student Experience, Teaching and Learning) at Sheffield Hallam University and Visiting Professor at Staffordshire University. She also works as an independent Evaluation Consultant on HE sector contracts, most recently with QAA Scotland. At Hallam, she leads the evaluation strategy within the Access & Participation Plan. This includes building evaluation capacity across the institution, a role she also replicates nationally. Her focus is on research and evaluation evidence across the student lifecycle. Her most recent work was funded by AdvanceHE and reviewed evidence of demonstrable impact on student access, retention, attainment, and progression outcomes.

Dr Rebecca Hodgson is Associate Dean, Teaching and Learning at Sheffield Hallam University, leading on teaching, learning, assessment and the student experience across a college of approximately 14,000 students. She is a member of the University's Teaching and Learning Leadership Team and contributes to a range of university projects in teaching, learning and assessment, including leading on the implementation of Grade Based Assessment. She co-chairs the College Race and Equality Steering Group, which has responsibility for ensuring the success of the University's Access and Participation plan targets, and equitable student outcomes across the student lifecycle. A key part of her role is leadership on quality enhancement and review cycles, using learner analytics and key metrics to inform effective intervention and focused action planning at all levels, supporting improved transition and retention.