

Education 4.0 Learning & Teaching

Strategic Plan 2027



**AMBITION
DELIVERED
TODAY**





APPLE DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL STATUS

97.7%
OF STUDENTS WERE SATISFIED WITH
LEARNING TECHNOLOGY²

OUTSTANDING CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

FOR DIGITAL UPSKILLING OF STUDENTS AND STAFF³

POSITIVITY MEASURE OF

89%

FOR 'LEARNING RESOURCES'⁴



EUROPE'S FIRST (HEI TO BECOME AN) ADOBE CREATIVE CAMPUS

OVER

25,000

STUDENTS



MENTAL HEALTH CHARTER ACCREDITATION

GRAPHIC DESIGN PROVISION RANKED 1ST IN THE UK⁵

BEST UNIVERSITY EMPLOYABILITY STRATEGY AWARD⁶

¹ TEF 2023

² International Student Barometer Autumn (Entry) Wave 2024

³ Mail University Guide 2024

⁴ NSS 2024

⁵ Guardian University Guide 2024

⁶ targetjobs National Recruitment Award 2024

1 INTRODUCTION

The Learning & Teaching Strategic Plan drives innovation and creativity through education and consolidates the institution's position at the forefront of 21st century learning.

At Teesside University we believe that education has the power to transform lives and economies, and by consistently placing our students at the heart of everything we do, we provide an outstanding student and learning experience that delivers excellent outcomes.

We empower our community to succeed by promoting an environment that is designed to support wellbeing, progression and inclusivity. Our cutting-edge campus is designed with students at its core, with award-winning facilities including the Library and Student Life provision.

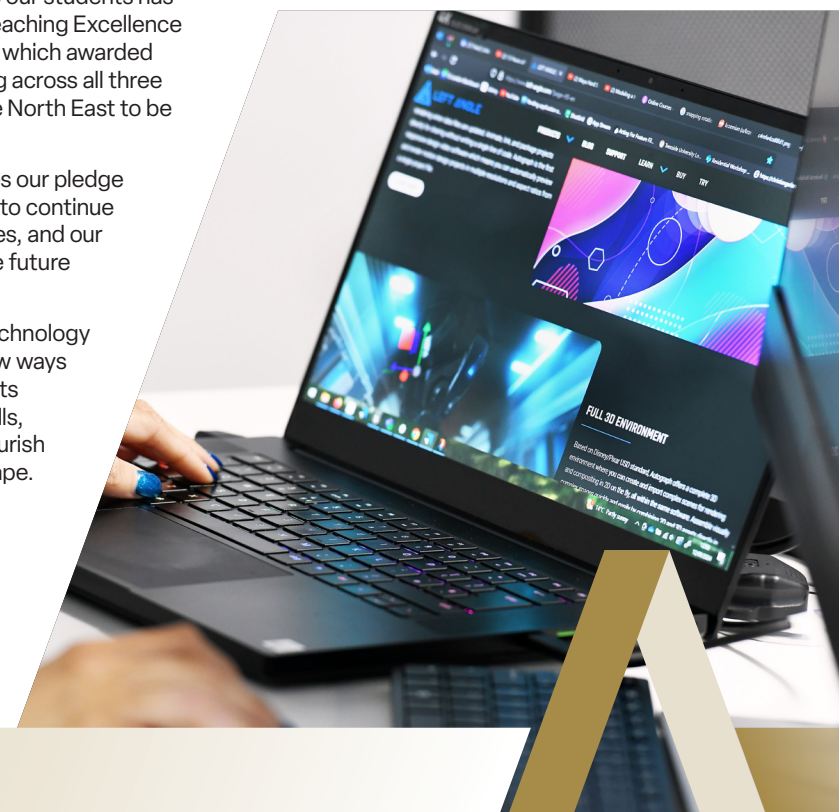
Our unwavering commitment to our students has been recognised through the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) accreditation, which awarded Teesside University a Gold rating across all three areas – the only university in the North East to be awarded this level.

This strategic plan demonstrates our pledge to students, staff, and partners to continue to enhance our offer, our facilities, and our support to make them fit for the future world of education.

We embrace the evolution of technology and proactively engage with new ways of learning, ensuring our students are equipped with the digital skills, knowledge, and expertise to flourish and thrive in an evolving landscape.

We work with business and education partners to understand sector challenges, skills needs of the future and adapt to new technologies and trends. We embed live projects and experiential learning across our courses to prepare students for the world of work.

As we look to the future of education and work, we do so with ambition, aspiration, and excitement at the many opportunities to create, innovate, and inspire.



2 CONTEXT

As the global education landscape continues to evolve, we have redesigned our operations around the student experience, enabling us to adapt swiftly and efficiently to a rapidly changing environment.

Powered by our digital partnerships with the tech giants, we embrace technological advancements and build our innovative learning approach around new and immersive tools wherever possible. We encourage the use of disruptive technologies where this can support learning, and our staff develop innovative assessment methods that bring out the best in our students.

We believe that learning is a lifelong journey, and we tailor our offerings to support students at all stages of their lives. Our goal is to help them develop the skills and behaviours necessary to navigate and contribute positively to an evolving society.

We continuously enhance our curriculum to meet evolving needs, offering diverse learning opportunities, including part-time and online options. Our outstanding-rated apprenticeship programme trains over 2,500 apprentices, and we collaborate with 200+ companies to design and deliver practical, industry-partnered courses.

As new industries and sectors emerge, we are committed to supporting the development of vital expertise, and the enhancement of existing skills to ensure our graduates are equipped to lead in these areas.

The University's inclusive and supportive approach fosters a trusted environment for learning, teaching, and socialising. Our Belonging campaign and commitment to access and participation ensures all students, staff, and partners feel welcomed, valued, respected and integral to our Teesside University community.



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3 FUTURE FACING LEARNING

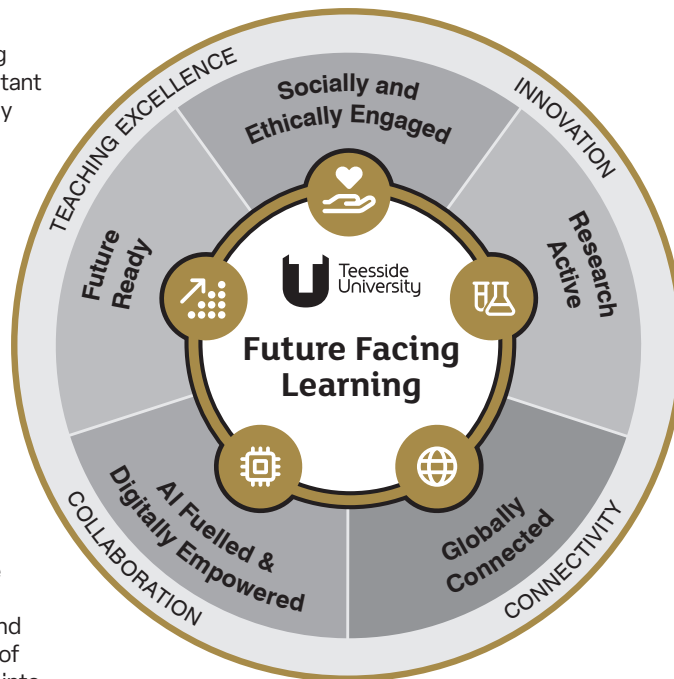
At Teesside University we have developed a model of learning that is innovative, flexible, and prepares our students for jobs of the future.

The award-winning Future Facing Learning approach responds directly to the needs of our students, providing them with the skills, knowledge and experience that will help them to thrive as students and graduates.

Future Ready

In today's rapidly changing world, being 'future ready' has become more important than ever before. At Teesside University we support our students to develop the skills, knowledge, and mindset necessary to succeed in a rapidly evolving job market. As a university we proactively address current and future skills requirements through education, and work with students and employers to support their needs and secure their futures.

At the heart of being future ready is our commitment to lifelong learning. We recognise that the skills and knowledge that are in demand today may not be the same as those that will be in demand tomorrow and foster a culture of continuous learning, empowering students to adapt to new challenges and opportunities as they arise. In support of this commitment, we embed flexibility into our courses, offering a range of learning options so that students can study around their home or work life.



Teesside University Law Clinic: preparing students for future careers

Teesside University Law Clinic offers students the chance to work under professional supervision, partnering with local law organisations to provide guidance and advice on real-life cases. This pro bono service benefits the community while giving students hands-on experience in areas such as employment, money claims, housing, and family law.

Last year the clinic provided £163,000 worth of free legal advice to over 60 vulnerable and underrepresented clients. Students, supervised by experienced legal professionals, offered services in employment law, family law, civil disputes, tenants' rights, and wills. This initiative not only improved access to legal support in the North East but also provided students with invaluable real-world experience.

The Law Clinic is crucial to the professional development of Teesside University law students. By working on real cases, students develop essential skills such as client communication, legal research, and practical problem-solving.



The clinic's impact was recognised with the prestigious Pro Bono / Community Initiative accolade at the 2024 Northern Law Awards. This honour highlights the clinic's significant community impact and its role in preparing law students for successful careers.

Teesside University Law Clinic exemplifies how practical initiatives can enhance student employability and prepare them for future careers. By providing essential legal services to the community, the clinic supports those in need and fosters the development of the next generation of legal professionals.

Socially and Ethically-Engaged

The Future-Facing Learning approach embeds social responsibility and global citizenship across the student and learning experience, where our students have the freedom to explore and debate international and multicultural challenges in a respectful and inclusive way. Aligned to our institutional mission of transforming lives, our students are encouraged to engage in meaningful activities that positively contribute to the community, as well as developing an ethical and responsible mindset.

Research Active

Teesside University offers our students and staff a diverse learning environment that facilitates the pursuit of new knowledge, justifications and understanding. This enables our students to develop the fundamental transferable skills a research active curriculum provides throughout their studies and into employment. Students develop their critical and academic research skills and engage in reflective development throughout their own higher education experiences to equip them with the skills and resilience to thrive in a complex and uncertain world.

Globally Connected

We help students prepare for a global professional world through international and intercultural conversations and sharing of experiences with people who live, study or work in various parts of the world.

Through collaboration with international partners, industry, and other stakeholders, we ensure our curriculum is relevant, innovative, and responsible, supporting our students to become global citizens and make a positive contribution to the world.



Curatorial studies culminating with international art exhibition

The British Council invited two Teesside University students to Italy to attend an internationally-renowned art exhibition as part of a prestigious fellowship.

The MA Curating (with Advanced Practice) students from Teesside were invited after receiving the prestigious Venice Fellowship from the British Council, which commissions the biennale's British Pavilion.

As part of the fellowship, the students, Caitlin McHugh and Faiza Faiq pictured below, received £3,000 and the opportunity to spend a month in Venice working as ambassadors at the British Pavilion exhibition.

They represented exhibiting artists, connected with peers and visitors, conducted research, gained experience and explored the biennale.



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AI Fuelled and Digitally Empowered

Our partnerships with Adobe, Apple and Microsoft place us at the forefront of digital education. To maximise the benefits of this and ensure digital inclusion, we provide our students with devices and a suite of applications to support their learning, as well as opportunities to undertake professional certifications through these partners at no cost. Our staff are supported to harness digital tools to offer a unique and immersive classroom experience.

Technology moves at an overwhelming pace and our digital expertise enables us to address this evolution with the pace and the innovation that Teesside University is renowned for. We recognise the implications of emerging tools like Generative AI to academia and employment sectors and encourage its responsible use as a companion for learning and teaching, embedding them into learning as much as possible.



Outstanding result as Teesside University awarded gold in all areas

The University was awarded an Overall: Gold rating, as well as a Gold rating for student experience and for student outcomes in the latest TEF results, released in September 2023.

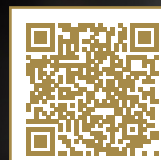
The TEF is a national quality framework run by the Office for Students which assesses higher education providers across a broad range of criteria – including teaching, course content and delivery, academic support, and the learning environment.

Achieving Gold is fantastic recognition for Teesside University's commitment to providing an outstanding student and learning experience.

Professor Mark Simpson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor said, 'We are delighted with the results in the Teaching Excellence Framework and feel they absolutely reflect the offer here at Teesside University.'

“In recent years, we have invested over £8m in our Future Facing Learning initiative, revolutionising the way we deliver our courses, and we are committed to providing the facilities, infrastructure and expertise to enable our students to succeed.”

TEF 2023 Teaching Excellence Framework	Overall: Gold
	Student experience: Gold
	Student outcomes: Gold



Find out more



4 STRATEGIC AIM AND PRIORITIES

OUR AIM:

To be the University of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, delivering innovative and impactful provision through Education 4.0.

We will deliver this by focussing on five strategic priorities:

> **To empower connectivity in educational design, drawing upon the knowledge and skills of partners to drive the evolution of Future Facing Learning.**

- > We will work with employers to co-design our curriculum around the needs of industry, embedding employability across all courses to support student success.
- > We will work with educational partners to expand the Future Facing Learning approach across our partner institutions.



> **To embed a sector leading institutional approach to student wellbeing, ensuring that every student is enabled to meet their potential.**

- > We will work with our students to remove physical and perceived barriers to success, promoting opportunities for all to engage in meaningful experiences.
- > We will deliver our Mental Health Charter and access and participation plans to promote an inclusive and supportive environment.



> **To deliver an outstanding personalised learning experience, underpinned by a data-driven approach to enhancing student performance.**

- > We will make use of University data to provide targeted and tailored support where required.
- > We will work with our students to proactively identify areas for improvement and address these swiftly.



> **To design a high performing curriculum portfolio aligned with the emerging trends of the Fourth Industrial Revolution**

- > We will embrace new learning approaches and technologies to enhance our curriculum, providing tools and practical opportunities for all students to engage.
- > We will be demand-led, continuously reviewing and enhancing our offer to ensure our course selection remains interesting, relevant and competitive.



> **To develop a best-in-class workforce equipped with the capabilities to deliver cutting-edge Education 4.0 learning experiences.**

- > We will continue to invest in the student experience, ensuring our facilities, systems, and equipment are fit for purpose and relevant for the jobs of the future.
- > We will support our staff to deliver a learning experience that will effectively prepare our students for their future careers.



5 DELIVERY

The success of the Learning & Teaching Strategic Plan will be achieved through collaborative working across the University and with our external networks.

We will maximise our strengths and industry partnerships to continue to deliver an outstanding student and learning experience, including:

Student Futures

Our Student Futures approach inspires and empowers our students to achieve their ambitions through tailored activities and support mechanisms that enhance their employability, including internships, placements, and external-facing clinics. This model, recently recognised as the Best University Employability Strategy¹ supports them throughout their whole student journey, from before they arrive at Teesside University to joining our worldwide alumni network of over 150,000 graduates in more than 150 countries.



Lifelong Learning

We work with regional and UK stakeholders and companies to ensure our offer remains consistently aligned to local and national skills needs. We work with industry partners to tailor our provision, offering a range of options to support skills development at all stages, from apprenticeships to undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, to bitesize learning and continued professional development.

Teesside University College Partnership

Teesside University and our partner colleges work collaboratively to address the skills needs of the Tees Valley through a seamless pathway of education and training to higher education level. Together we are able to expand and respond to the economic and education climate through shared strategic thinking and innovative collaboration with businesses.



Teesside University
College Partnership

¹targetjobs National Recruitment Award 2024



TU London

Our campus in London acts as a gateway to global education, welcoming students from across the world to experience our immersive learning environment in the capital. This innovative hub also enables the development of our global networks and multinational partnerships, providing a base for future-facing learning activity and enhancing the profile of our work across the world.

Campus Masterplan

Through our Campus Masterplan, we provide inspiring and enabling spaces fit for 21st century learning. Our flagship buildings, such as Student Life, the Library and The Buttery postgraduate hub, have been co-designed with students to ensure they meet their evolving needs.

New facilities, including the £36.9m state-of-the-art life sciences building, BIOS and the £40m Digital Life building, offer the tools, technologies and immersive learning experience that will support delivery of Education 4.0.

Access and Participation

At Teesside University we believe that individuals should be able to achieve their full potential and are committed to creating an inclusive campus that embraces diversity and supports students across the whole lifecycle.

Teesside University has a strong heritage in widening participation, broadening horizons and raising aspirations amongst students and the local community, and our commitment to this agenda is consistently recognised in many areas.

Digital and AI Strategies

Placing IT and digital fluency at the core of our learning and teaching, our Digital and AI Strategies harness innovative and sustainable technologies to provide an enriched, meaningful, and rewarding experience. These foundational strategies support the Learning & Teaching Strategic Plan, serving as a blueprint that keeps the University at the cutting-edge of digital learning and ensures that students and staff are well-prepared for a future shaped by AI.

Both key strategies are also aligned to a digital first library that enhances and supports learning, teaching and research creating, curating, enabling and preserving knowledge for the institution.



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