The new idea—student engagement for quality assurance of university education, which means that students have both a right and an obligation to enhance the quality of their learning experience through collaboration with university staff—has now been widely accepted. However, perceptions about the level of student participation, types of activity and the areas which need improvements vary among countries. To bring uniformity in these perceptions, the conference aims to provide a forum for researchers to exchange information about the current levels of student engagement in their countries and discuss how to promote student engagement in the future.

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Entry to this conference is free. If you wish to attend the conference, please confirm your availability by sending an e-mail to the RCUS office (rcus@un.tsukuba.ac.jp).

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International Conference

Student Engagement for Quality Assurance of University Education:
A Comparison between Sweden, Finland, England, the USA, Australia, Taiwan, and Japan
RCUS, University of Tsukuba, the 58th Open Research Conference

Short bios of the Speakers

Åsa Kettis (Uppsala University)
Dr. Åsa Kettis is director of the division for Quality Enhancement at Uppsala University, Sweden. She is also an associate professor in Social Pharmacy, and has been senior lecturer for some 20 years, including appointments as director of studies and research leader. She works with policy issues with regard to QA and QE at the national level, e.g. as member of the Swedish Association of Higher Education’s Experts Committee on Quality, and member of the Swedish Higher Education Authority’s Advisory Board on the national system for QA of higher education. She is also international reviewer for the Enhancement-led Institutional Review (ELIR), that is run by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), Scotland.

Jani Ursin (University of Jyväskylä)
Dr. Jani Ursin is senior researcher at the Finnish Institute for Educational Research of the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. His research has focussed on quality assurance in higher education, mergers of Finnish universities, implementation of the Bologna Process as well as learning outcomes in higher education. He is also active in the European Educational Research Association (EERA); he is a former Link-Convenor of EERA’s Network 22: Research in Higher Education and currently is Networks’ Representative on Council in the association. He is the former President of the Consortium of Higher Education Researchers in Finland (CHERIF). Ursin is national editor of Scandinavian Journal of Educational Research and editorial board member of Educational Assessment.

Stuart Brand (Birmingham City University)
Stuart Brand has been the University’s Director of Learning and Teaching since 2007 and in 2011 took up the post of Director of Learning Experience. He firmly believes that staff-student partnership is crucial to the development of a real learning community. Partnership with Birmingham City Students’ Union has been central in this work and was recognised with a Times Higher Education Award in 2010. He was awarded a National Teaching Fellowship in 2012. He led the development of a Student Academic Partners scheme through which students are employed to work in partnership with staff on enhancement projects. He is currently leading a HEFCE project across four universities on measurement of Learning Gain.

Peter Felten (Elon University)
Peter Felten is professor of history, director of the Center for Engaged Learning, and assistant provost for teaching and learning at Elon University in the United States. His publications include Engaging Students as Partners in Learning and Teaching (Jossey-Bass, 2014) and Transforming Students: Fulfilling the Promise of Higher Education (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014). He is president-elect of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, and co-editor of the International Journal for Academic Development.

Ryan Naylor (University of Melbourne)
Dr. Ryan Naylor is an Early Career Researcher with the MCSHE. His current research focuses primarily on student equity and the student experience. Major projects he is currently undertaking include an OLT-funded project looking at new constructs and techniques for examining the student experience, a project examining refugee participation in higher education funded by the NCSEHE, and a national framework to support rigorous program evaluation in student equity initiatives. This project builds on his previous work in developing a critical interventions framework for equity in higher education for the Federal Government. He has recently concluded a national study examining the first year student experience. He is also involved in strengthening outcomes for Indigenous learners in the Shepparton area through a partnership with GOTAQE and local community groups.

Eric S. Lin (National Tsing Hua University)
Dr. Eric S. Lin is Professor at the Department of Economics, National Tsing Hua University since August 2013. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from University of Texas at Austin in 2004. He is currently the Director of Center for Learning Assessment Service, National Tsing Hua University, and the Joint-Appointed Professor, Center for Teacher Education, National Tsing Hua University, the Adjunct Research Fellow, Research Center of Public Economics, College of Social Sciences, National Taiwan University, and Research Fellow of IZA, Bonn, Germany. He has studied various labor market, education issues and related econometrics techniques, including elapsed time to a doctoral degree, Ph.D. career job choices, gender wage differentials, decomposition analysis, fertility forecasting, education attainment of immigrants, and finite-sample refinement in non-linear GMM with unknown heteroskedasticity.

Masahiro Tanaka (University of Tsukuba)
Dr. Masahiro Tanaka is currently an associate professor of the Research Centre for University Studies, the University of Tsukuba in Japan. He holds a Ph.D. degree in Education from the Institute of Education, the University of London in the UK. His doctoral thesis is now available as a book entitled, The Cross-Cultural Transfer of Educational Concepts and Practices: A Comparative Study (Oxford, Symposium Books). One of his recent referred papers written in English is ‘The Mobility of Universities’, Comparative Education, Vol.45, No.3, pp.405-418.

Reiko Yamada (Doshisha University)
Dr. Reiko Yamada is a professor of Faculty of Social Studies, and also the director of the Center for Learning Support and Faculty Development, Doshisha University in Japan. She is a committee member of the National University Corporation Evaluation Committee. She is a former president of Japanese Association of First Year Experience and an executive director of Japanese Association of Higher Education Research. She earned her Ph.D. from University of California, Los Angeles. She edited a book titled Measuring Quality of Undergraduate Education in Japan: A Comparative Perspective in Knowledge-based Society, New York: Springer in 2014.