

# The Goals of Learning in Higher Education

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**Universities are teaching the  
next generation of global  
citizens and leaders**



# University teaching is not evidence-based enough



# University teaching is not student-centered enough



**Student body needs to better  
reflect society**

**Students of all backgrounds  
should thrive**



**Students can be partners in their education**

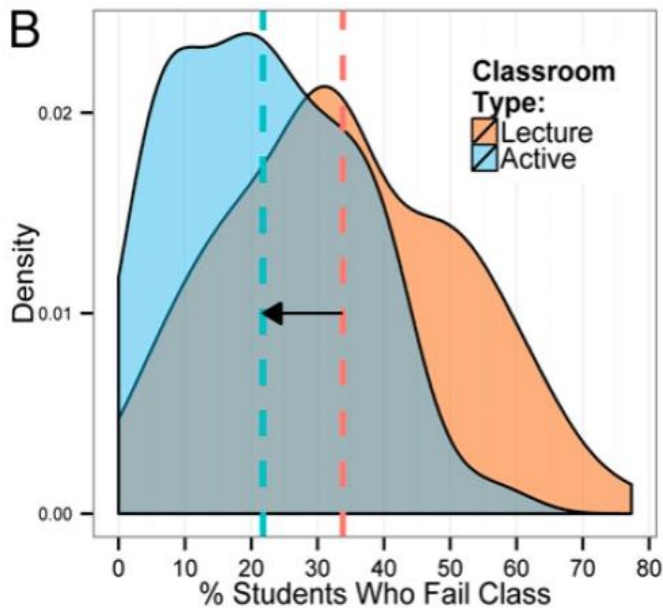
**When students actively engage they learn to think and act as experts**



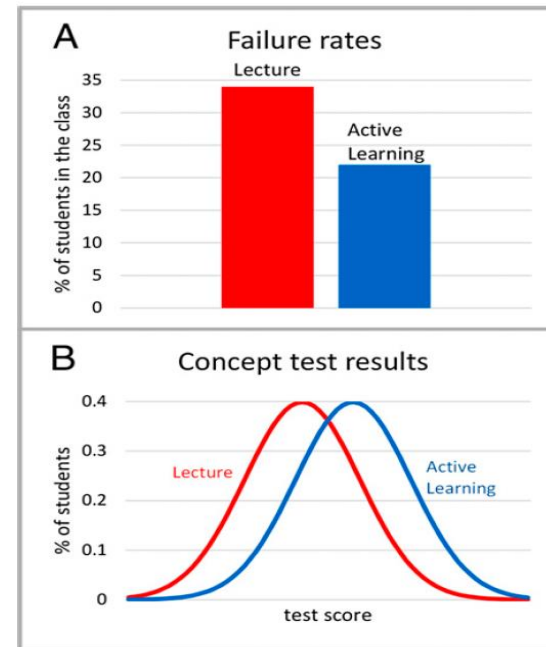
# Students can be equal members of the university community



## Lecture-based teaching does not benefit students



Freeman (2014)



Wieman (2014)



**Teachers and students want  
to feel valued, respected  
and supported –  
we can make that happen**

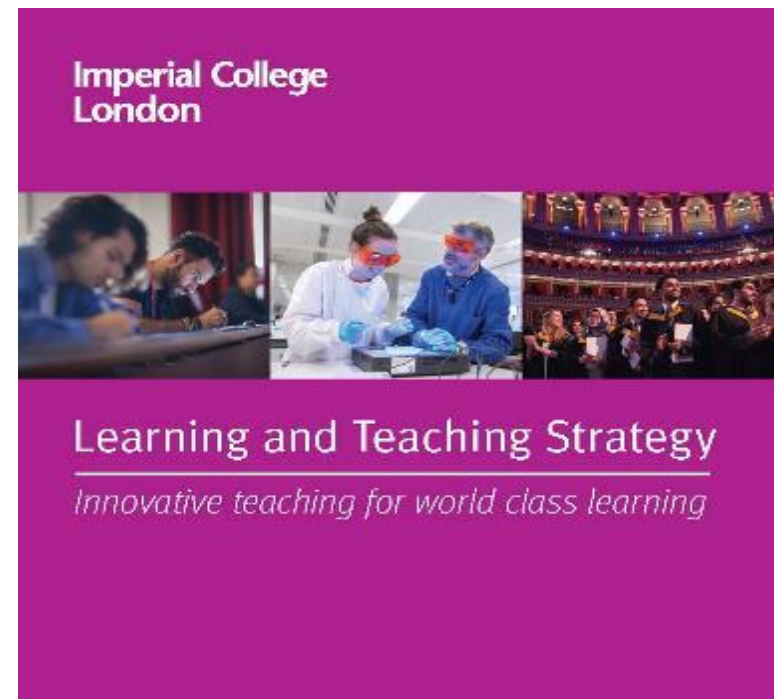


## What does that mean for university leaders?

- **make strategic choices**
  - **create parity of esteem between teaching and research**
  - **invest in education innovation**
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# Imperial Learning and Teaching Strategy

- **university-wide**
- **supported by digital and online technology**
- **in partnership with students**
- **with a substantial financial investment**



## Key priorities, informed by evidence

1. **fundamental review of our curricula and assessment**
2. **transformation of our pedagogy, making our teaching more interactive and less lecture-based**
3. **fostering an inclusive and diverse culture**
4. **developing online and digital tools which enhance our curriculum and pedagogy and strengthen our community**



## Pedagogy transformation

- making learning more engaging, challenging, authentic and satisfying
- support for students to engage effectively with an interactive approach to learning
- support for staff to innovate and for students to become co-creators of teaching innovations



# Innovations in Teaching



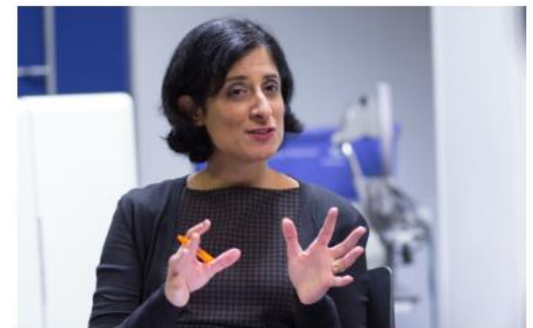
## Closer to the action

Teaching and research staff unite to give students a patient's perspective



## Going further together

Tackling trickier science by letting go of lecturing



## Taking the long view

How medical students are transformed into student doctors by getting to know patients

# Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (UROP)

- **Students work in partnership with established groups for 6-12 weeks over the summer.**
  - **Two research projects: student experience with STEMM research and with educational projects producing visualisations of challenging concepts**
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## **Questionnaire data shows the students were very positive**

- 84% felt intellectually stimulated by the experience**
- 81% felt it helped them see the relevance of their degree**
- 87% enjoyed the freedom & responsibility they had**

## **Interview data generated five themes**

- Freedom leading to agency**
  - Authenticity of experience**
  - Shift in perception**
  - Power and equality**
  - Changing identity**
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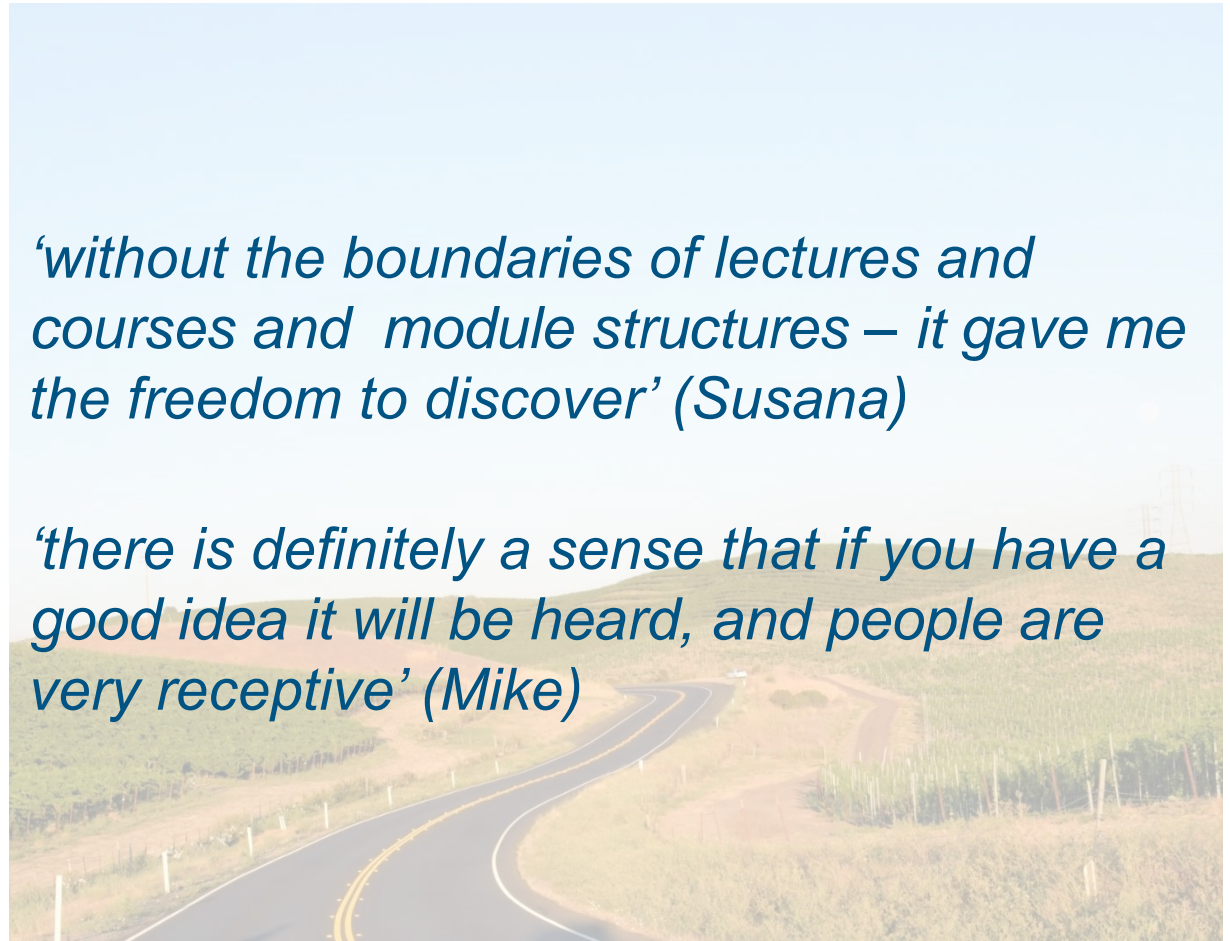


# Theme

*Freedom  
leading to  
agency*

*‘without the boundaries of lectures and courses and module structures – it gave me the freedom to discover’ (Susana)*

*‘there is definitely a sense that if you have a good idea it will be heard, and people are very receptive’ (Mike)*



Students working independently in self-directed active learning recognised the freedom and felt empowered

# Societal Trends and Shifts in Learning



## Demographic changes

Lifelong learning for **100 year lives** and **60 year careers**



## 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution

**Exponential** technological change<sup>2</sup> disrupting **every industry**



## Rise of blended learning

Greater effectiveness **proven** by research



## Different content consumption

**59%** of generation Z prefer using YouTube to learn<sup>1</sup>

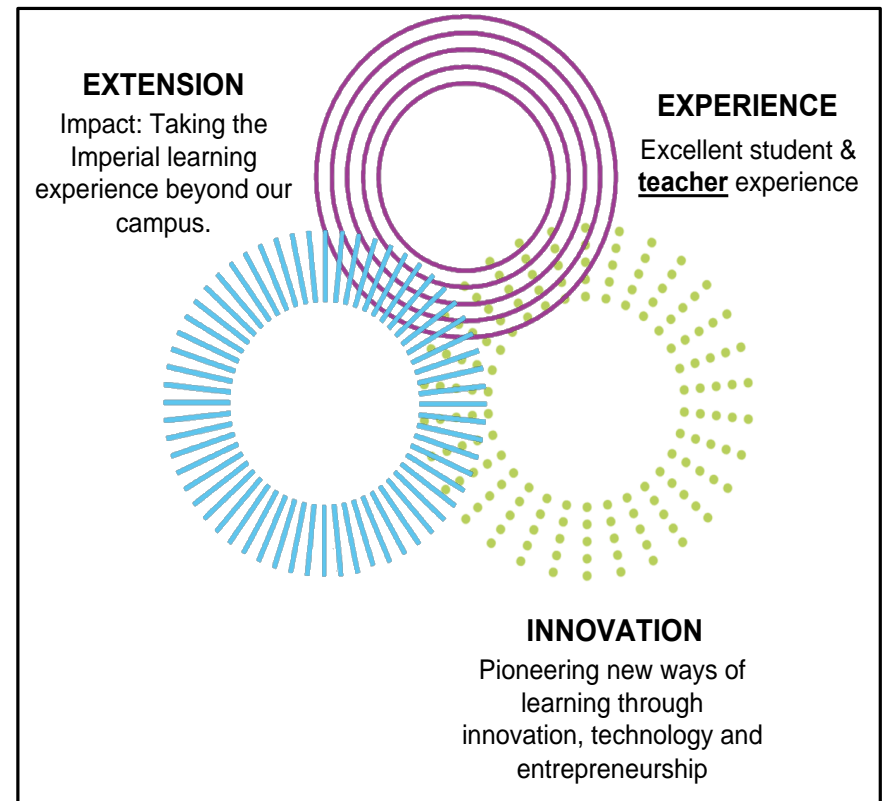


## Global need for education

Across the globe **263 million** children are not in school

# Digital Learning Strategy

- Experiment with novel pedagogy
- Ensure evidence based approach to learning design
- Explore the opportunity space between 100% residential and fully online.
- Stimulate the creation and use of open online materials.
- Invest in flexible equipment, small studio environments and high quality staff.
- Explore new techniques: VR, augmented reality, mixed reality



## Online Global Master in Public Health

- **first cohort September 2019**
  - **increasing reach and impact of our education**
  - **very different group of students**
  - **videos, discussions, peer-to-peer learning, live tutorials**
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## Innovative learning spaces

- **working with staff and students to create a new vision**
- **shared, flexible, flat-floor spaces for teaching, collaboration, study and social activities**
- **interdisciplinary undergraduate teaching labs**
- **adaptable, resource-rich ‘sand box’ spaces for staff to experiment with new teaching techniques**



**Strong university  
communities can be powerful  
agents of change**



# Higher Education can change the world

