

EAUC-S response GTCS Proposed Draft Standard for Provisional Registration (Lecturers – in Scotland's Colleges)

How much do you agree with the proposed draft?

Strongly disagree

Explain:

Learning for Sustainability needs to be explicitly acknowledged as an overarching pillar of these standards as it is across other GTCS professional standards.

Looking at the current standard provisional registration, SPRL, for teachers it clearly states learning for sustainability is an overarching standard embedded within professional values, knowledge and understanding, and skills and abilities. Learning for sustainability is also embedded in the current professional standards for qualified college lecturers which these provisional lecturers will eventually be expected to meet. However, it seems to be absent in this draft for college lecturers. This raises the question, why is it only omitted for this group if it's required for provisional registration at other levels by GTCS and if it's required for their future role as fully registered lecturers?

It seems like a missed opportunity to embed LFS as a core value of these college lecturers teaching as if it's not promoted while they are training, they may see it as a 'bolt-on' when they progress to full registration. The current SPRL for teachers demonstrates it is possible to integrate aspects of LFS in the SPRL framework and that by doing this the quality of learning for students is improved.

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Omitting learning for sustainability from any standards which permit an individual to teach also means Scottish students are not guaranteed their rights to sustainable education, this is a injustice for our students who are clearly demanding more learning for sustainability and means their voices are not being listened to.

LFSS and EAUC-S letter to GTCS regarding proposed provisional lecturer registration standards:

Dear Pauline

Proposed Draft Standard for Provisional Registration (Lecturers – in Scotland’s Colleges)

We are contacting you in response to the current GTC Scotland consultation on the proposed Standard for Provisional Registration in Scotland’s Colleges (SPRL). Learning for Sustainability Scotland is Scotland’s United Nations University-recognised Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development and EAUC Scotland is the Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Further and Higher Education.

As you know, the local and global context for educators and society in Scotland is changing and challenging. Recent reviews (e.g. OECD, Muir) highlight an increasing, pan-sectoral need to support learners to develop the skills, attributes, values and knowledge to thrive in our increasingly interconnected world; with its many social, environmental and economic challenges.

We are proud that, in Scotland, Learning for Sustainability is, alongside values and leadership, a cross-cutting theme in the GTCS Professional Standards for Teachers and a core aspect of what it means to be an educator in Scotland. This approach to life and learning enables learners, educators, educational institutions and their wider communities to build a socially just, sustainable and equitable society.

As the SPRL is the foundation Standard for College Lecturers, we consider it crucial that Learning for Sustainability is made explicit in this Standard. Acknowledgement of Learning for Sustainability as an underpinning theme in the new SPRL will demonstrate connection and synergy with the current Professional Standards for Lecturers in Scotland’s Colleges, and set the scene for when these Standards are reviewed in 2023.

We are keen to support the strengthening of Learning for Sustainability throughout all aspects of the Standards for lecturers in Scotland’s Colleges and would be pleased to meet you to discuss this further. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

Betsy King, Learning for Sustainability Scotland
Matt Woodthorpe, EAUC Scotland