

The Academic Enhancement Model (AEM)

The Academic Enhancement Model (AEM) is a UAL enhancement framework introduced in January 2018 by UAL's DVC Professor Simon Ofield-Kerr and Dean of Learning and Teaching Enhancement Professor Susan Orr.

The central objective of the AEM is to work collaboratively/closely with courses to improve student experience, student attainment and continuation rates across UAL.

Courses are identified for AEM support each year (bi-annually) against five key metrics:

1. Overall satisfaction (NSS) benchmarked against sector
2. Continuation rate
3. Overall attainment (percentage of students awarded firsts and 2:1 against sector benchmarks)
4. The attainment differential between home BAME and home white students
5. The attainment differential between international students and home students

Utilising/drawing upon student data, student feedback surveys and local, contextual information, the AEM role provides focused, ongoing support to courses that fall below specified thresholds in these five metrics.

Building on work already in place at college level, the AEM lead is embedded within the college and works closely with each course team to identify and develop tailored support and activities including; a 3 hour AEM course team workshop, staff development opportunities, planning/developing inclusive pedagogies and curricular, creating space for open and safe discussion and SMART action-setting.

The dual role of the AEM lead (within the College and the Learning and Teaching Exchange) enables them to join-up existing resources and provision within the College and across UAL; identifying opportunities and best practice in staff development, student enhancement and attainment research and best practice.