



Discovery Themes launching September 2014

A new approach to broadening within the Leeds Curriculum

What are Discovery Themes and discovery modules?

From September 2014 'elective modules' will be renamed 'discovery modules' (skills electives will become skills discovery modules). This is not just a rebranding exercise. All the discovery modules will belong to one or more of ten interdisciplinary Discovery Themes, which will make it easier for students to choose those which are right for them. It has also given us the opportunity to review provision and design new modules, aligned to the University's research strengths and students' interests.

How will students choose discovery modules?

A **Discovery Themes website** is being developed in LeedsforLife to help support students in their choice of discovery modules. The website explains the rationale for taking discovery modules, showcases the wide range of modules available and allows students to compile a discovery module 'shortlist' that can be stored for future reference.

Website launches for incoming Level 1 students

Incoming Level 1 students will be invited to explore the website from the end of August. They then have the choice of either signing up for discovery modules via OLE (online enrolment) before they arrive in Leeds or bringing a shortlist of discovery modules for discussion at the Discovery Themes Fair.

18 August 2014 website launches

Current students

Current students (ie. those entering Level 2 and above in 2014/15) will choose their electives this July as usual, but from September 2014 these will be referred to as 'discovery modules' and the term 'electives' will no longer be used. From 2015/16 onwards, all students will choose discovery modules.

Discovery Themes Fair in Great Hall

A **Discovery Themes Fair** (replacing the Electives Fair) will enable students to meet Theme Leaders and school staff to discuss options before making a final decision.

24 September 2014 Discovery Themes Fair

What do staff need to do?

Staff need to be aware of the change and use the term 'discovery modules' rather than 'electives' with incoming Level 1 students. Where students do not have the option to take discovery modules, staff need to be aware of the broadening options within programmes and how they relate to the Discovery Themes.

Explore the demonstration website

In July, a demonstration website will be made available to staff, enabling users to explore the Discovery Themes and discovery modules.

July 2014 explore the website

Induction

Staff involved in preparing induction materials should refer to 'discovery modules' and 'Discovery Themes' in place of existing references to electives (using the slides previously circulated and available on the Leeds Curriculum website).

Incoming Level 1 students will have read about discovery modules in Countdown to University Life (which students receive in August) and have been directed to the Discovery Themes website.

Further information

More detailed information is available in the Broadening / Discovery Themes Handbook which can be downloaded from the Leeds Curriculum website at <http://curriculum.leeds.ac.uk/broadening/current-activity>

The Leeds Curriculum website also provides school-specific lists identifying which Discovery Themes and sub-themes each discovery module belongs to.

Choose Explore Grow