

Scaling Student-Staff Partnerships for Institutional Curriculum Transformation: The University of Leicester's Research-Inspired Education Project,

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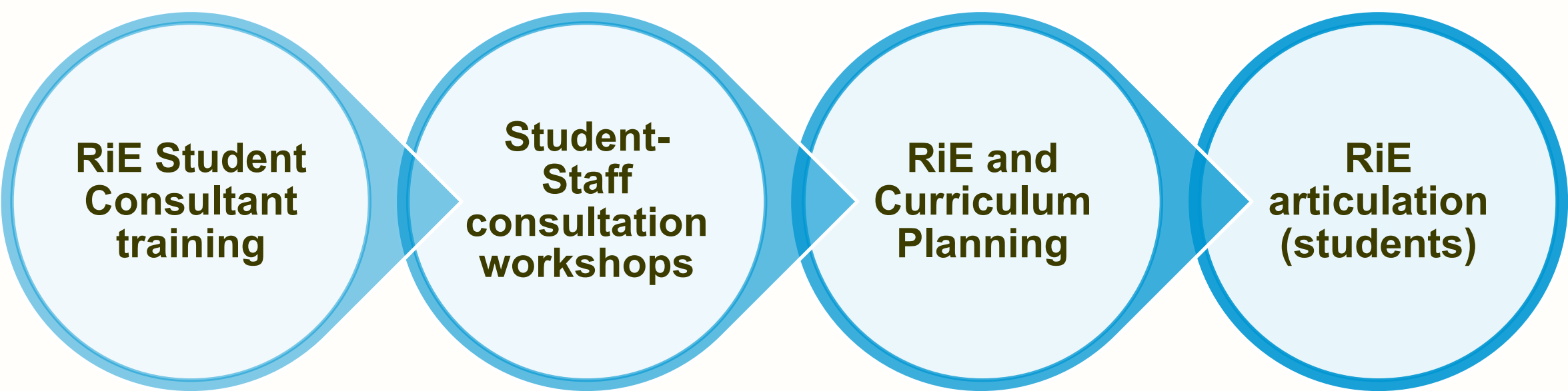
The University's Research-inspired Education (RiE) strategy (2021-2031) seeks to ensure *every student* is able to *articulate how research has shaped their education* with us, how they have *worked with researchers* and how they have *participated in research*.

RiE Student as Partners (SaP) is an **Institutional initiative** embedded at **programme level**.

Project Objectives

1. Understand **what research-inspired education means in practice** for different **subject areas**.
2. Understand what **research-inspired education is currently taking place**.
3. Help **students and staff reach a shared understanding** of what a research-inspired education is in their **subject area**.
4. Facilitate Schools to work with their students consider **additional ways that research can be used in courses**.

Activity Timeline



Outcomes

- Move beyond compliance → foster genuine ownership
- Preparation to allow informed discussions with staff to co-create RiE visions
 - Student training & support to understand project context
 - Access to programme audit data
 - Structured consultation with academic teams
- Over 120 trained student consultants
- 201 programme discussions

Evaluation

Data collection: Students: 2 Focus Groups; 7 students **Staff:** 2 focus groups and 1 semi-structured interview; 5 staff members.

- **Motivation and value:** Students valued contributing as partners, finding research-integrated teaching more engaging and beneficial for employability. Staff remarked that they found the most engaged students to contribute the most.
- **Staff relationships:** Informal collaboration with staff strengthened relationships and humanised lecturers. Student Staff partnership was experienced as essential and positive by the participating staff members
- **Skills development:** Participation built confidence and improved communication and conversational skills in students, which was also found in the staff accounts.

"I truly enjoyed participating in the student-staff consultation workshop. The discussions were incredibly productive, valuable, and enjoyable. I am grateful for the opportunity(...)" [Student Participant]

"I think as staff, we gain another insight and perhaps an insight from a younger generation that are seeing the world in a slightly different way to us is perhaps useful" [Staff Participant]

Key Findings and Takeaways

Challenges: Scaling across diverse programmes Recruiting students Balancing consistency with flexibility	Achievements: Increased student engagement Shared ownership of curriculum transformation	Institutional Students as Partners requires: Clear frameworks Structured support Commitment to shared vision
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