



Global Changemaker

Graduate Attributes

A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, curved bands in vibrant colors: pink, green, orange, and purple, arranged in a semi-circular pattern on the left side of the page.

**Making the Most of
Graduate Attributes**

Graduate Attributes in Action

'Graduate attributes are the qualities, skills and understandings a university community agrees its students should develop during their time with the institution. These attributes include, but go beyond, the disciplinary expertise or technical knowledge that has traditionally formed the core of most university courses. They are qualities that also prepare graduates as agents for social good in an unknown future.'

Bowden, 2000

As a student, you can use graduate attributes to guide your own learning and personal development goals.

- Start by identifying the attributes that are most important to you and your future aspirations.
- Explore opportunities both inside and outside the classroom that will help you develop those skills.
- Look out for workshops, mentorship programs, and career development initiatives. Explore clubs and societies. Consider becoming a Class Rep.
- Take advantage of the wealth of support available at Heriot-Watt to help you make the most of your university experience and prepare yourself for success after graduation.

As a staff member, you can use graduate attributes to highlight the skills and capabilities developed through the activities you support.

- Look beyond the specific activity and consider the skills, qualities and attributes students can develop through participating.
- Make the connection between your activities and the graduate attributes clear. This can help students articulate the attributes they are developing.
- Offer opportunities to reflect on skills gained and celebrate achievements.

The Heriot-Watt Graduate Attributes



Purpose Driven

Inspired by a personal commitment to deliver positive impact within local and global communities and make a valued contribution to society.

Creative

Demonstrates curiosity, imagination and intellectual agility to drive the discovery and innovation required to meet contemporary challenges.

Globally Connected

Confidently engages with diverse communities, cultures and ideas, applying insights to action for inclusive sustainable development.

Professional

Acts with integrity, compassion and ethical consideration, collaborating and appreciating the skills of others in order to inspire and lead positive change.

We are Global Changemakers. A Heriot-Watt education develops the capabilities, curiosity, and sense of purpose to empower graduates to make an impact on the global challenges of our time.

How to use the pack

This pack introduces the Heriot-Watt Graduate Attributes. The cards will help you explore what the four attributes mean and how you can apply and develop them in your own context.

The cards are designed to be used by individuals or in group discussion.

Top Tips for Students

- ✓ Take time each semester to reflect on your achievements and plan your next steps.
- ✓ Explore opportunities across the Heriot-Watt community: join a society, become a class rep, connect with others studying your programme.
- ✓ Make the most of the wealth of support available: careers advice, study skills support, wellbeing and much, much more.
- ✓ Practice presenting and communicating the skills and experience you have gained at university.

Top Tips for Staff

- ✓ Offer opportunities for students to reflect on skills, experience and the attributes being developed.
- ✓ Help students explore the connections between activities and the Graduate Attributes.
- ✓ Encourage students to make the most of co-curricular activities and the breadth of student support open to them.
- ✓ Celebrate successes and help students showcase their achievements.