

Core features and assessment criteria for foundation degrees

Core features

1. To be eligible for consideration, all bids for foundation degrees were required to have a readily identifiable and distinctive set of core features covering the following broad areas:

- employer involvement
- development of skills and knowledge
- application of skills in the workplace
- credit accumulation and transfer
- progression – within work and/or to an honours degree.

Assessment criteria

2. Eligible bids were assessed against the following criteria:
- a. The extent to which the market opportunity for the programme was demonstrated.
 - b. The extent, nature and added value of employer involvement.
 - c. The extent to which the programmes meet the needs of the target student groups.
 - d. The contribution of the programmes to students' employability.
 - e. The contribution of the programmes to widening participation and progression to further study.
 - f. The anticipated quality of teaching provision.
 - g. The overall coherence of the bid.
 - h. The strength of the proposed partnership.
 - i. The strength of the management arrangements.
 - j. The feasibility of the project plan.
 - k. The prospects of ensuring employer involvement.
 - l. The feasibility of meeting student recruitment targets.