



Scotland's Tertiary
Enhancement Programme

Belonging Project

Who we are

The **Appreciating Belonging and Enabling Change** project is a collaboration between different colleges and universities as part of the Scottish Tertiary Enhancement Programme (STEP).

STEP is managed by the College Development Network (CDN) and the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Scotland and funded by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC). Our project focus is on students' sense of belonging and mattering.

What do we mean by *belonging* and *mattering*?

Belonging and mattering is how students feel connected to community at university or college, and their experience of being included, respected and supported by staff and fellow students. We know that students who feel they belong are more likely to succeed at college or university, to finish their course and to have better mental health and wellbeing.

What we're looking for

We want to hear about any activity in Scottish colleges or universities that is aimed at (or has) improved students' sense of belonging in that institution. They may not use the wording of 'belonging' or 'mattering' but have the impact of students feeling more connected to and included in the community. Our project is identifying and sharing examples of good practice that universities and colleges can learn from to improve their students' sense of belonging.

Example 1

A course that has students engaging online across different campuses creates opportunities for students to come together, to collaborate and form community.

Example 2

An access project that prepares young people for student life and supports them to engage with the campus community into and through their student journey.

Example 3

A student-led project that welcomes students from an asylum-seeking background on campus, supports them to navigate UK student life, and helps their sense of belonging.

How you can help us

If you are involved in or aware of a project or activity that you think fits this description, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact: STEPBelong@hw.ac.uk

Checklist

- Has the project/activity or associated work been running for approximately 2 to 3 years or more?
- Is there information about the project / activity that can be shared, who is involved, what happens?
- Is there someone involved in the project / activity who is happy to talk to us?