

Example of focus group questions

Student Focus Group Guide (around 60 minutes)

PROJECT TITLE: Mapping the characteristics of the 'ideal' university learner

[Start with recording] For recording purpose, ask each participant to introduce themselves (in a circle) by saying their name and which year of study are they in and which degree.

PART 1 Exploration on 'ideal' and 'good' student

1. What do you think about the term 'ideal' student? [Probe: What does this term mean to you?]
2. What do you think about the term 'good' student'? [Probe: What does this term mean to you?]
3. Are they different? What is the difference? If so, how? Is ideal student a useful concept? Do we need/want it?
4. Does anyone feel that they can identify with the ideal student? Why/why not? [Probe: What about a good student?]
5. What do you think lecturers expect from students at university?
6. Do you 'match' their expectations of students? Could you elaborate?
7. Do you think lecturers from other disciplines/subjects have different expectations of students?

PART 2 Individual exercise [5 minutes]

- Hand out A4 paper and ask individuals to write down the 5 most and least important features of ideal university students. Rank 1-5.
- Ask one person to read out their most important word and elaborate – use as keyword to prompt the views of others. Move onto the next person, most important (or 2nd if already repeated). Do up to 6 times. Aim 3 minutes per key word/per person. Same for the least important features.

[Collect A4 paper + consent forms at the end]