Mapping learning outcomes: A roadmap to enhanced student engagement

During a recent Periodic Programme Review (PPR) exercise held within the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Health Sciences offered fully online by the Department of Nursing stood out as exemplary in the ambit of curriculum development and the effective mapping of learning outcomes.

The Internal Quality Review panel overseeing this programme's review commended the exemplary mapping of learning outcomes, which are directly or indirectly aligned with the overall aim of the programme. This is achieved through the utilisation of **roadmaps** that enhance student engagement through the breakdown of macro intended outcomes to micro learning outcomes. The use of such roadmaps emerged following participation in CPD organised by the Office for Professional Academic Development (OPAD), namely through study-unit *OPD5002: Designing, Delivering and Evaluating Online Study-Units*.

Roadmaps outline the intended learning outcomes for each phase of the study-unit, along with the associated resources and activities. These visual tools create a clear connection between learning outcomes, activities, and assessments. By providing advance insight into the workload for upcoming weeks, roadmaps support students in planning and managing their time effectively. Furthermore, they enhance student engagement by encouraging deeper interaction with the content and available resources.

Beyond sharing these roadmaps with the students at the start of the study-unit, the study-unit and programme coordinators seek to utilise various channels to communicate the learning outcomes and the assessment strategies, including the student handbook, featured VLE announcements, tutorials, audio or audio-visual guides, and model assignments submitted by previous students.

Such programmes' commitment to quality aligns with the Learning and Teaching strategic theme of the University of Malta's Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

Through this Quality Mailshot Initiative, the QAC aims to disseminate best practices at UM that align with both national and European standards for quality in higher education. If you have an example of good QA practice which you would like us to share, please get in touch with us at **qac@um.edu.mt**