

Is your teaching learner-centred?

It is helpful to think of 'learner-centredness' as a set of attitudes and values. Here is a set of questions you could use to decide if your teaching is 'learner-centred'. (These are based on a set of 'minimum standards' for learner-centred education suggested by Michele Schweisfurth, full reference below).

- Are students engaged and motivated to learn?
- Are classroom relationships based on mutual respect?
- Does the learning challenge students and build on existing knowledge?
- Are students given the chance to talk about their ideas to support their learning?
- Is the curriculum relevant to learners' lives? Do the activities promote a range of skills including critical thinking and creativity?
- Does the assessment test a range of skills and give credit for more than recall of knowledge?

These could apply to teachers working with students, or to teacher educators working with teachers and student teachers.

Adapted from: Schweisfurth, M. (2013) *Learner-centred Education in International Perspective: Whose pedagogy for whose development?*, Abingdon, Routledge, p 146.