



Principles of Learning, Teaching and Assessment (HE)

Version	1
Owner	Academic Board
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See Appendix A for version history

Principles of Learning, Teaching and Assessment (HE)

Introduction

At Boomsatsuma, we believe education should be creative, connected and purposeful. It should help people discover and develop their talents, build confidence in their abilities, and open doors to meaningful futures.

Our approach is shaped by the belief that learning is most powerful when it is active, collaborative and rooted in real-world practice. We connect education with industry, culture and community, creating opportunities for students to develop knowledge, skills and experience by extending learning beyond the classroom.

We are committed to creating an environment where students feel welcomed, supported and challenged. We recognise that students join us with different perspectives and aspirations, and we seek to create learning experiences that enable every student to participate, belong, progress and thrive.

The principles below guide the design and delivery of our higher education programmes and the experiences we create for students, giving practical expression to the mission, vision and values of Boomsatsuma.

The Principles

Learning is Creative

Creativity is at the heart of how we teach, learn and assess. We see creativity not simply as a subject or skill, but as a way of thinking, solving problems, communicating ideas and shaping the future. We encourage students to explore, experiment and develop their own creative voice while challenging assumptions and discovering new possibilities.

This is reflected through:

- Learning activities that encourage exploration, experimentation and creative confidence
- Opportunities for students to develop original ideas and creative solutions
- Teaching approaches that value process, reflection and iteration as well as outcomes.

Learning Through Practice

We believe students learn best through making. Whatever the creative outlet, students develop knowledge, skills and understanding through active participation in creative and professional practice. Learning is strengthened when ideas are tested, refined and realised through action.

This is reflected through:

- Learning through the development and realisation of projects, products and ideas
- Opportunities to apply learning in authentic and professional contexts
- Reflection on creative and professional practice as an integral part of learning.

Learning is Connected

Education should be relevant to the world students will enter and help shape. We connect learning to industry, culture and community, creating opportunities for students to develop the knowledge, skills, experience and networks needed to succeed, while understanding the wider context and impact of their work.

This is reflected through:

- Industry insight that helps students understand the context and relevance of their learning from the outset
- An emphasis on live projects, briefs and professional practice opportunities
- Active engagement with local, regional and wider creative communities
- Opportunities to develop enterprising and transferable skills for future careers.

Education Creates Opportunity

We believe talent is widely distributed but opportunity is not. Learning, teaching and assessment should help every student recognise and develop their potential, build confidence in their abilities, and create meaningful opportunities for progression and achievement.

This is reflected through:

- High expectations, clear guidance and support that enable students to succeed
- Learning experiences that build confidence, resilience, independence and professional identity
- Opportunities to explore and progress towards meaningful personal, creative and professional futures
- Inclusive and accessible learning experiences that support participation, progress and success.

Students are Partners

Students are active participants in learning and valued partners in the Boomsatsuma community. We encourage students to take ownership of their learning, contribute their ideas and perspectives, and play an active role in shaping both their educational experience and the wider learning community.

This is reflected through:

- Regular opportunities for students to provide feedback on modules, courses and their wider student experience
- Student contributions to programme development and enhancement
- Student representation within committees that shape academic practice and the learning experience
- The development of independent learning, self-reflection and personal responsibility.

Relationships Matter

Outstanding education is built on strong relationships. As a small provider, we create supportive learning environments where students and staff know one another, challenge one another and learn together. Our open-door approach to teaching and our no-wrong-door approach to student support help ensure students can access guidance, encouragement and support when they need it.

This is reflected through:

- Strong relationships between students, staff and the wider learning community
- Collaborative learning communities where students and staff learn from one another
- Accessible, responsive and joined-up academic and student support
- A culture of trust, respect, belonging and mutual accountability

- Learning environments that promote wellbeing, belonging and creative confidence.

Assessment is Authentic

Assessment is most meaningful when it reflects how knowledge, skills and creativity are applied beyond education. We use assessment not only to measure achievement, but to support learning, encourage reflection and prepare students for creative and professional futures.

This is reflected through:

- Industry-relevant and practice-based assessment tasks
- Assessment that requires application, creation, production, problem-solving or professional judgement
- Timely and constructive feedback that supports reflection, improvement and future learning.

Teaching is Responsive

Excellent teaching is reflective, responsive and continually evolving. We enhance learning, teaching and assessment through collaboration with students, engagement with industry and creative practice, professional development and a commitment to continuous improvement.

This is reflected through:

- Ongoing review and enhancement of teaching, learning and assessment practice
- Staff engagement with professional, creative and pedagogic development
- The use of student feedback, outcomes and industry insight to inform improvement
- A culture of reflection, collaboration and sharing practice across programmes, disciplines and levels of study.

Review

This Statement will be reviewed periodically by the Academic Board to ensure it continues to reflect the mission, values and educational approach of Boomsatsuma, and the needs of its students, staff and partners.

Appendix A – Version History

Version	Date	Changes
1	10 June 2026	New draft