

Graduate Attributes:

Generic for all disciplines vs. for the Arts and Social sciences?

1) As identified by the Research-Teaching linkages Quality Enhancement theme:

(<http://www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk/themes/ResearchTeaching/attributes.asp>)

At undergraduate level:

- Critical understanding
- Informed by current developments in the subject
- An awareness of the provisional nature of knowledge, how knowledge is created, advanced and renewed, and the excitement of changing knowledge
- The ability to identify and analyse problems and issues and to formulate, evaluate and apply evidence based solutions and arguments
- An ability to apply a systematic and critical assessment of complex problems and issues
- An ability to deploy techniques of analysis and enquiry
- Familiarity with advanced techniques and skills
- Originality and creativity in formulating, evaluating and applying evidence-based solutions and arguments
- An understanding of the need for a high level of ethical, social, cultural, environmental and wider professional conduct.

Masters level

- Conceptual understanding that enables critical evaluation of current research and advanced scholarship
- Originality in the application of knowledge
- The ability to deal with complex issues and make sound judgments in the absence of complete data.

2) Attributes our interviewees in Arts & Social Sciences focused on:

 <i>Most frequently referred to in the interviews</i> 	Provisionality of knowledge (and associated ability to manage having beliefs challenged / coping with unexpected results / failure to find an answer)
	Formulating research-type questions
	Development of ideas in a <i>dialogue</i>
	Integrating rather than compartmentalizing knowledge
	Informed by current debates in the discipline
	Analyzing and interpreting raw data
	Enabling students to reflect on actual practice by applying theories / ideological understandings
	Ability to orally present information / arguments / cases
	Being able to begin from a position of not knowing answers but being able to engage in process of discovering answers
	Working collaboratively in teams

Discussion

What are the associations / correlations between these attributes and those identified by QAA?

What are the associations / correlations between these attributes and those identified within the employability policies of your institutions?

Is there a distinction worth developing between low-level employability attributes, middle level intellectual graduate skills, and high level educational value?

(See also <http://www.psy.gla.ac.uk/~steve/qee/#employ>)