

SCALE-UP: information for students

SCALE-UP at NTU

"I enjoy the SCALE-UP approach to learning. The layout of the room allows for free flowing discussion and debate" (level five NTU student). In 2013/14, NTU became the first UK university to introduce SCALE-UP—Student-Centred Active Learning Environment with Upside-down Pedagogies—a more active mode of learning developed in the USA as an alternative to lecture-heavy teaching. In a SCALE-UP class, students learn by doing rather than by listening.

During your time at the University you may study one or two of your modules using SCALE-UP. This resource is to help you understand what this approach to learning involves, including what you can expect and what is expected of you when learning in the SCALE-UP mode.



The SCALE-UP experience

SCALE-UP experiences will vary, but will typically include:

- Students sit at circular tables of 9 and work in groups of 3, engaged in short learning activities interspersed with class-wide discussions.
- Students teach peers, helping each other within and between groups.
- Plenty of opportunity to ask questions and get feedback from peers and from the tutor.
- What used to be homework, exploring and applying ideas, is now done in class and; what used to happen in lectures—information transfer—is now done outside the classroom.

How will I know if I'm in a SCALE-UP class?

A SCALE-UP approach has three characteristic elements:

- **Collaborative learning**—students learn via problem-solving activities in assigned groups
- **The learning environment**—is technology-rich and includes circular tables, whiteboards, laptops & other technology to promote peer collaboration
- **'Upside-down' teaching**—'content' is encountered outside class and sessions are devoted to applying ideas

If these seem familiar, you may well be in a SCALE-UP class.

Benefits of SCALE-UP



Research suggests that SCALE-UP helps to improve students' understanding, achievement and enjoyment of the subject. It also builds life skills such as team working and problem-solving.

Many students in the first year of SCALE-UP at NTU made positive comments about the approach: "*It engages you and makes you think for yourself, as opposed to being spoken at in a lecture. It also allows you to think about how to use your knowledge in real life situations*" (Law student).

Role of the lecturer/tutor

Compared to a traditional lecture method, in SCALE-UP, tutors take on a more facilitative approach. They curate resources for students to engage with outside class; in the session, they circulate and work with teams and individuals, asking questions and engaging in dialogue with students.

What is expected of students?

Students are expected to prepare for SCALE-UP sessions by reading or viewing set materials and doing assigned tasks beforehand. This will increase the benefit you get from in-class activities. You will also be expected to participate actively in class, collaborate with assigned group members, and reflect on group performance.