



Developing Community Changemakers: ARU and CitizensUK

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Definitions

- Interdisciplinary studies: ‘...the capacity to integrate knowledge and modes of thinking drawn from two or more disciplines to produce a cognitive advancement—for example, explaining a phenomenon, solving a problem, creating a product, or raising a new question—in ways that would have been unlikely through single disciplinary means (Mansilla, 2005, p. 16)
- ‘A changemaker is someone who has found the self-permission to advance change for the good of all. It is someone who is intentional about solving a social or environmental problem, motivated to act and be creative.’ (University of San Diego, 2018)
- ‘Defined broadly, a Changemaker’s program is a university funded opportunity for students (and sometimes, staff in partnership with students) to design, refine, implement and evaluate a change they would like to see in their department.’ (Thorogood et al, 2018)



In the beginning:

- ARU became a member of CitizensUK in Chelmsford
- Benefit to ARU, our students and our community



Supports ARU Education Strategy:

Deliver an inclusive and transformative education

Foster a research-rich educational environment



Supports ARU Research and Innovation Strategy

Support and grow impactful staff and student knowledge exchange

Solve civic challenges for local and global benefit



Education - Ruskin Modules

- In 2021/22 ARU introduced a suite of Ruskin Modules for Level 5 students:
 - transformative and imaginative education for active participants
 - facilitate interdisciplinary learning, teaching and thinking
 - bring together students from different disciplines around societal concerns and key challenges.
 - linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- CitizensUK Ruskin Module was designed to develop student change makers:
 - Five sessions of community organising training
 - Assessed by group presentation on a local issue and individual reflection on experience of community organising, interdisciplinary working and personal growth



Research – Students at the Heart of Knowledge Exchange (SHoKE)



- CitizensUK Ruskin Module was a Spark Award winner in 2021/22.
- Developing community change makers with the 500+ student and staff Knowledge Exchange community
- Wider development of change makers across ARU



References

- Mansilla, V. B. (2005) Assessing Student Work at Disciplinary Crossroads, *Change: The Magazine of Higher Learning*, 37:1, 14-21, DOI: [10.3200/CHNG.37.1.14-21](https://doi.org/10.3200/CHNG.37.1.14-21)
- Thorogood, J., Azuma, F., Collins, C., Plyushteva, A. and Marie, J., (2018) Changemakers and change agents: encouraging students as researchers through Changemaker's programmes. *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, 42(4), pp.540-556.
- University of San Diego, 2018. *Changemaker Hub*. Available at: <https://www.sandiego.edu/changemaker/about/mission-vision.php>