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UniServe Science

UniServe was set up in 1994 with some Federal Government funding as a clearinghouse for information about new technologies in tertiary science teaching. Since that time it has changed its focus and currently it is funded by the University of Sydney through the College of Sciences and Technology to expand its activities to better serve its clients. In this change UniServe taken on a more defined and enlarged role within the University.

UniServe now has three main activities:

- supporting teaching in the College of Sciences and Technology at the University of Sydney;

- serving NSW Schools; and
- supporting tertiary science teaching.

It is the latter that is associated with national and international tertiary science activities. In this area UniServe hosts two annual meetings—one is a First Year Experience Forum for science teachers around Australia and the second is a one-day conference on scholarly enquiry into science teaching and learning. In addition UniServe publishes two editions of *CAL-laborate* each year for its international connections.

<http://science.uniserve.edu.au/>

Council for the Renewal of Higher Education



The **Swedish Council for Renewal of Undergraduate Education** was established by the Swedish Parliament on 1st July 1990, and became a permanent National Agency in 1993. Since July 1, 1995 the Council is an integral part of the National Agency for Higher Education. Since October 1999 postgraduate education is included in the Council's responsibilities which has led to a change of name. The purpose of the **Council for the Renewal of Higher Education** is to promote and support efforts to develop quality and renewal of higher education. The three main activities of the council are:

- to award grants for development activities;
- to collect and disseminate information on planned, current, and completed development activities of a fundamental and innovative nature concerning undergraduate education in Sweden and abroad; and
- to evaluate the development activities the Council has funded.

Some specific objectives of the Council are to:

- support the integration of environmental studies in Sweden undergraduate education;
- support changes in curricula and pedagogy in Engineering and Natural Science programs in order to recruit more female students to these programs; and
- support the use of IT in teacher training.

Currently funded projects include 'Hypermedia and Communications for Active Learning', 'New Forms of Assessment in Mathematics and Computer Science', 'Interactive Distance Education in Multimedia' and 'Computer Assisted Education in Radiographic Techniques for Dental Students'.

<http://www.hgur.se/>

http://www.hgur.se/index_eng.htm

The Higher Education Academy

The organisation formerly known as LTSN (Learning and Teaching Support Network) is now part of the Higher Education Academy. The Higher Education Academy brings together several organisation involved with quality enhancement under one umbrella organisation. The aim of the Academy is to enhance the student experience and this ethos will be relevant to teaching and learning as well as other aspects of HE life. Discipline specific support continue to be provided by the network of 24 Subject Centres. There will also be an accreditation scheme for insitutional teaching and learning programmes as well as a professional recognition scheme for practitioners. In addition, the Academy will have a research and evaluation function and aims to



become a leader in pedagogic research and evidence based practice.

The aims of the Physical Sciences Centre are to continue to provide a range of services and support for the chemistry, physics and astronomy and related HE communities. Our new web address is <http://www.physsci.heacademy.ac.uk/>

The Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences (GEES) Subject Centre is a national and international hub in the exchange of knowledge on learning and teaching in higher education across the three disciplines. Our web address is <http://www.gees.ac.uk/>

<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/>