BLADE Charter

UWS is designing units and programs of study for optimum learning taking into account learner needs, discipline accreditation requirements, a mix of directed and self-directed activities, and available resources and infrastructure. Working in close consult with academic staff, there is a team of Blended Learning Advisors, Designers and E-learning (BLADE) specialists working in, and across, schools and with the small central Blended Learning Team, to support, and enable the transformation to blended learning. A Charter has been developed by the BLADE team to articulate the attributes, behaviours and services staff can expect of these blended professionals.

- **Focus on student-centred learning experiences and encourage best practice in blended learning design and learning resource building**
  - Listen to academics about what teaching and learning improvements they would like to make, and what student feedback on the unit has been like.
  - Offer advice and strategies to help academics achieve goals for teaching, learning and research.
  - Ensure tools, apps, devices, software used to support learning are fit for purpose.
  - Apply UWS standards, frameworks and models (e.g. Basic Standards in Blended Learning, SUNSET, Advanced Standards, Blended Learning Unit Plans).
  - Focus on continuous improvement of all blended units.
  - Support previously blended units (up to 15% of time).
  - Encourage re-usability of learning resources.

- **Develop institutional capacity for blended learning by sharing information and expertise across disciplines.**
  - Actively engage in professional development through the Designing for Learning Program and/or other internal/external professional associations, programs or conferences.
  - Attend Blended Learning Forums to engage with academics and colleagues to share exemplars of best practice, ideas and resources.
  - Actively participate in BLADE Muster network meetings to develop individual and collective capacity across UWS to address current and future learning design challenges.
  - Engage with the central Blended Learning Team for support or advice in relation to designing for learning at UWS.

- **Build confidence and capacity of teaching staff in designing innovative learning experiences for UWS students.**
  - Showcase examples of what has been achieved, and what is possible, in blended learning.
  - Provide relevant professional development to increase skill set of academics and professional staff.
  - Design, develop and produce re-usable learning resources.
  - Design and develop sustainable vUWS sites.
  - Assist academics to find what works best to achieve learning outcomes and improvements to teaching practice; it’s not necessary to train everyone on every app, device, software available.