

INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING

Share and Inspire Evenings

The Academy of Teaching Fellows and the Student Union host a series of *Share and Inspire* evenings - at each event, one of the Student Led Teaching Award winners and one of the members of the Academy of Teaching Fellows present their views of teaching and learning to colleagues, students, and the general public. These are a fantastic opportunity for staff and students to come together to share their thoughts about teaching and learning in Higher Education.

Student involvement in self-appraisal

Professor Tom Rippeth from the School of Ocean Sciences has been developing 'self-appraisal techniques' resulting in improved student marks for essays and more targeted feedback from staff.

Students self-assess an essay ahead of the tutor marking the work and present at a mini-conference. There is also a critical appraisal assessment of a Climate Change documentary

and an online scientific paper-reading exercise. Tom reports that the initiative has resulted in an increased mean module mark. 93% of students described this as being very relevant to their degree course.



Improving student satisfaction and NSS results through creative teaching

Dr Yvonne McDermott from the School of Law reports on a range of innovative practices aimed at enhancing the student experience and developing specific skills. These include a session for Land Law that brings in practicing solicitors and gets students to apply the law alongside legal practitioners; incorporating 'moot courts', (i.e. mock courtroom sessions) into assessment; the use of professional guest speakers such as one from the Press Complaints Commission and utilising online resources such as 'The Virtual Lawyer'. NSS results reveal an overall satisfaction rating of 93% this year, an increase of 10% and 50 places on the league table.

High praise for the creative distance-learning courses in Forestry



Dr James Walmsley from the School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography coordinates a distance-learning course which provides an integrated suite of forestry-related postgraduate programmes. The External Examiner said: "This programme is currently the best-recruiting Masters (DL or taught) in Forestry on offer in the UK. It is clearly fulfilling a need within the profession and the standards being achieved are testament to the quality of the course material, the staff input and the administrative arrangements and support."