

Conference Workshops Information

WORKSHOPS SESSION 1 (10.45am – 11.30am)

1. Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) at the University of Lincoln Library

We are piloting a PAL project, in which undergraduates are “roving” in key student working areas at three of the University’s campuses. The PALs offer first line study support, addressing information and academic literacy, and providing general mentoring and support for student learning. They are also a valuable source of student feedback, and have advised us on the content and format of our learning development workshops and study guides.

This session will consist of a presentation from Helen Williams (PAL coordinator) and the students’ perspective, given by two representatives from the PALs. The presentation will describe the aims and objectives of the project, what we have achieved so far, problems encountered, lessons learned and plans for the future.

This will be followed by questions and answers.

Facilitator: Helen Williams Academic Subject Librarian University of Lincoln

2. Involve – working with student volunteers

Involve work with over 700 De Montfort University student volunteers and organise internally run projects including mentoring. This workshop will demonstrate the planning needed to work with student volunteers and how to manage this special group of volunteers.

The workshop will explore:

- Supporting student volunteers
- The challenges
- Volunteer policies and procedures
- Retention and Recognition
- How you can work with Involve

Facilitators: Becky Cameron Mentoring Coordinator and Vicky Cliff Volunteering Manager of INVOLVE Student Volunteers at De Montfort University

3. ‘Peer Mentoring’ working at the course level.

A De Montfort University pilot ‘Peer Mentoring’ project based in the Faculties of Humanities and Business and Law has involved students, course and centrally based staff working together to contextualise ‘Peer Mentoring’ to the course context, and provide a ‘Peer Mentor’ resource to first year students.

This workshop will provide a brief ‘overview’ of the developing approaches in four programme areas, with the opportunity to hear directly from students their experiences of being involved in ‘Peer Mentoring’.

More specifically, the workshop will explore key issues arising from the pilot activity including:

- Key messages
- Finding the ‘right’ approach to maximise engagement
- The challenges

Facilitator: Louise Buckingham Centre for Learning and Study Support De Montfort University

WORKSHOPS SESSION 2 (11.45am – 12.30am)

4. Working in Partnership with Students to Enhance Teaching and Learning

The workshop will share experiences of running a pilot project, in the School of Health and Social Care at the University of Lincoln, which offers a 'lecturer-led' student-based service to educators, whereby trained student consultants provide feedback to individual lecturers on elements of teaching and learning. As peers in the production of knowledge and the experience of learning, student consultants offer the student perspective on learning. The project acknowledges that students are the 'experts' on the experience of participating in teaching and learning activities.

Participants will be provided with various materials about the project including leaflets, and examples of project documentation.

For more information visit our web pages at www.tinyurl.com/lincolnscots

Participants in this workshop will:

- hear about an approach to gaining a better sense of student experiences within different learning activities;
- consider the opportunities and challenges that arise through the implementation and management of a scheme that partners with students as consultants on teaching;
- reflect on student engagement in the enhancement of learning and teaching in ways that are meaningful, personalised, timely and confidential.

Facilitator: Karin Crawford, Principal Teaching Fellow, University of Lincoln and students from the SCOTs project.

5. Enhancing the International Student Experience – International Student Mentoring

For many international students moving to a new country, away from family and friends, can seem a little daunting. The prospect of having contact with someone who knows their new city can make this just that little bit easier.

This workshop will:

- discuss the challenges for students with a diverse range of cultural experiences engaging with the mentoring process
- illustrate the positive contribution mentoring can make to the International student experience
- share ideas on how to set up and facilitate a mentor scheme for international students

Facilitators: Louisa Hibble, International Partnerships Co-ordinator, Leicester Business School and Andy Gale International Student Support Officer

6. Communication and context: examples from Education Studies

This workshop draws upon mentor, mentee and staff viewpoints following the recent mentoring pilot in Education Studies. We will discuss the challenges arising in facilitating student communication and some pertinent considerations for subject teams, including:

- What are the most appropriate technologies for communication between student peers?
- To what extent can and should staff support or facilitate student communication?
- To what extent should 'institutional' technologies, such as Blackboard be provided for mentors and mentees, or should students select externally hosted social software, such as Facebook or google group-pages? And why?

The session will be of particular interest to participants who would like to either set up or develop peer mentoring within their area. It will enable participants:

- To identify and evaluate benefits and challenges of mentoring, from a *subject perspective*.
- To explore and discuss the main issues surrounding the selection and *use of technologies for communication* between mentors and mentees, as well as more generally across the scheme.

Facilitator: Heather Conboy Humanities E-Learning Coordinator De Montfort University