Education Matters – July 2017

Education Matters is an e-newsletter for all staff and postgraduates who are involved in teaching and supporting student learning and contains items relating to the Teaching Academy and other internal and external news.

Teaching Academy News

Teaching Academy awards for PGRs – winners announced

Congratulations to the winners of the 2017 ‘Teaching Academy awards for PGRs who have demonstrated excellence in their contribution to teaching or supporting student learning,’ which have now been announced. There is one winner in each College and up to two highly commended nominations; nominations are made by staff and students. Winners received £300 and each highly commended nomination received £50, at an awards event held jointly with the Graduate School on 29 June 2017.

Details of the award winners and those who were highly commended for 2017 are as follows:
MDS
Winner: Kathryn MacKay, Institute of Applied Health Research
Highly commended: Cleo White, School of Dentistry

EPS
Winner: Andreea-Ina Radu, School of Computer Science
Highly commended: Richard Thomas, School of Computer Science and Brian Taylor, School of Mathematics

LES
Winner: Marina Martinez Garcia, School of Biosciences
Highly commended: Charles Philips, School of Psychology and Tess Osborne, School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences

CoSS
Winner: Frances Rogan, School of Government and Society
Highly commended: Eleanor Gore, School of Government and Society

CAL
Winner: Lesley Duffin, School of English, Drama and American & Canadian Studies
Highly commended: Giulia Covarino, School of Languages, Cultures, Art History and Music and Elizabeth O'Connor, School of English, Drama and American & Canadian Studies

More details and photographs of the awards ceremony can be found on the [website](#).

Upcoming events

**Supporting effective groupwork activities in your teaching**

**Date:** 4–6 September 2017

**Deadline for application:** Friday 21 July, 4.00pm

Do you include, or want to include, student groupwork in your teaching? Do you want to learn more about how to support groupwork effectively, particularly in diverse student cohorts? Do you wonder about how to assess groupwork effectively? Do you want to meet people facing the same opportunities and challenges, in a fun outdoors environment?

For the first time, the Teaching Academy and the University's outdoor pursuits centre, the
Raymond Priestley Centre (RPC), are hosting a joint training programme in the Lake District. We will share our own experiences and learn from the expertise of the RPC outdoor team and TA staff, through a combination of outdoor and classroom activities.

The programme is open to all staff who support student groupwork in the curriculum, and is accessible to all, whatever your experience of the outdoors. In celebration of the RPC’s 70th anniversary, and thanks to the RPC and TA sponsorship, all expenses are covered, including travel, accommodation and food. As well as the formal activities, there will be time to pioneer new ideas, share frustrations, swap tips and have fun in a beautiful environment. Please note, most participants will share rooms; if this is a barrier to participation, please let us know on your application as there are a few private rooms available. Special diets and disabilities can be accommodated with prior discussion.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr Vikki Burns. If you would like to register, please contact Helen Rosser with the following information attached to your email as a Word document:

- Name
- Role:
- School/unit
- Why you would like to attend, including your current involvement with student groupwork (100 words maximum)

There are limited places that will be allocated to ensure a balance of staff from across the University.

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Other internal news

Educational enhancement funding opportunities (EEFs)

University of Birmingham staff interested in running a project during 2018–19 to investigate and enhance the educational experience of our students are invited to submit an outline proposal. This proposal must be received by the EEF project team at cladprojects@contacts.bham.ac.uk no later than Monday 25 September 2017.

EEF projects should lead to clear outcomes that can benefit the University as a whole. As a guide, it is anticipated that we will fund projects typically in the region of £10–15,000 each,
but larger bids will also be considered.

Key themes for the 2017 funding are:

- Enhancing student engagement in their learning
- Digital education innovations
- Enhancing assessment and feedback
- Delivering a research-intensive education

Apply here »

Collaborative Teaching Laboratory

Construction work on the University of Birmingham’s brand new Collaborative Teaching Laboratory (CTL) began in February 2017 and is due to be completed by 2019.

The new state-of-the-art building, along with the recently opened engineering lab in the School of Engineering Building will enable us to rethink the way Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects are taught and designed, to help prepare our students more readily for future professions, by reflecting the multifaceted nature of working life.

The CTL is located between the Learning Centre and the Biosciences Building.

Visit the website for more information.

External news

JISC releases report: Student Digital Experience Tracker 2017

Read what learners had to say about their digital environments (PDF 2MB).

HEFCE TEF Results

HEFCE announced the outcomes for the Teaching Excellence Framework at the end of
June.

HEPI and HEA release *Student Academic Experience Survey 2017*

Featuring important new questions this year. [Read the report](#) (PDF 1.8MB).

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**Contact us**

The intranet site for the [Teaching Academy (TA)](http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/teaching) contains an introductory video and information on the activities of the TA and includes a list of upcoming events organised by the TA, CLAD/LS and Colleges. If you have any queries about the TA or need more information please contact the TA Administrator [Helen Rosser](mailto:teachingacademy@contacts.bham.ac.uk).

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