Education Matters – September 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

Birmingham Education Fellowships 2017

We are delighted to announce the winners of the Birmingham Education Fellowship Scheme (BEF) for 2017. They are:

- **Dr Lesley Batty**, School of Geography Earth and Environmental Sciences, College of Life and Environmental Sciences
- **Dr Karl Dearn**, School of Engineering, College of Engineering and Physical Sciences
- **Dr Tom Harrison**, School of Education, College of Social Sciences

These fellowships recognise, reward and celebrate individuals whose expertise makes an
outstanding contribution to the student learning experience. They provide Education Fellows with an opportunity to undertake teaching and learning-related projects and professional development activity, and to share their expertise with colleagues across and beyond the University. Full details of the awards can be found on the Teaching Academy BEF web pages.

Register of Expertise

A new online resource is being launched this September to help staff, and PGR students who teach, to connect with teaching and learning experts on campus.

Featuring University of Birmingham academic experts in key areas of teaching and learning, the Register of Expertise aims to bring together the wealth of knowledge and good practice from across the University.

The Register can be searched by area of expertise, or the Register of Expertise by Person section can be used to search for individuals by name. If you would like to be added to the Register, please fill out this form.

Birmingham Beacon Festival

The Birmingham Beacon Festival was timed to coincide with the Teaching and Learning Conference and saw a week-long series of events and workshops designed to support applications for professional recognition and the continuing professional development of colleagues around the University. Seventy-two colleagues attended workshops and seminars ranging from debating 'the purposes of higher education today' to building an academic identity using the Lego Serious Play methodology. There were also opportunities to find out more about writing an application for HEA fellowship and workshops on (amongst other things) assessment and feedback, small and large group teaching, evaluation, and designing new programmes. Feedback on the Festival from participants was extremely positive and there are plans to run a similar event during the 2017/18 session.

Education in Practice journal: call for contributions

Education in Practice, the teaching and learning journal of the University of Birmingham, features contributions from colleagues around the University writing about different aspects of their learning and teaching activities, in papers and case studies.
Find out how to contribute (pdf=120kb) to the December 2017 issue, and take a look at previous issues.

New articles in the TA blog on Teaching and Learning

Recent articles in the TA blog are: ‘Celebrating Birmingham’s Teaching Heroes’ and ‘The Tale of the Squished Pomodoro: using writing groups to support Professional Recognition applications’. The aim of the blog is to share innovative practice, ideas, top tips, resources, information and reports on events. Visit the Teaching Academy blog site to read the articles, subscribe, make comments and check out the policies regarding submission.

Upcoming events

ResourceLists Workshop

Date: Mon 18 September, 2.00–3.30pm
Venue: Main Library Training Room

The session is designed to show you how to create lists; add links to a wide variety of resources; how to request scans (digitisations), and link your lists to Canvas.

Find out more »

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 £10–15k 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 »

AuVision: for staff who teach and support students on the autism spectrum

This online resource is intended for the use of all staff at the University of Birmingham. It is informed by the experiences of autistic students, who gave their views through the work of the AuVision project. The resource is designed so that users can find specific information quickly and easily or gain a deeper understanding of a particular topic by using the links provided.

Find out more »

Digitisation for ResourceLists@Bham

The Digitisation Service within the Library supports teaching and learning by supplying digital versions of Library content for ResourceLists and also for students with disabilities. The Digitisation Service produces digital extracts of book chapters and journal articles and other types of content for use in a ResourceLists@Bham, and academics are asked to submit requests for the service for the new academic term as soon as possible.

Find out more »
External news

Widening Participation Resource

HEPI and Brightside have a joint publication – *Where next for widening participation and fair access? New insights from leading thinkers*

[Visit the HEPI website](#)

Pedagogic Community of Practice

A new pedagogic Community of Practice has been launched concerned with visual learning and matching how we teach to our students’ cognitive functions, so we can enhance engagement and increase active learning. Find out more at [www.visionarylearning.co.uk](http://www.visionarylearning.co.uk).

[HEA STEM conference 31 January 2018](#)

[Visit the HEA website](#)

Contact us

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