

Institution:	Chester College of Higher Education
Programmes:	BSc Animal Behaviour BSc Animal Behaviour and Welfare BSc and Dip HE Applied Biology Single Honours BSc Biology Combined Subjects BSc Biology BSc Biomedical Science BSc Environmental Science BSc Food, Nutrition and Health
Modules:	Work-based Learning (WB2002) Biology dissertation (BI3001) Environmental Science dissertation (ES3001)
Activity:	'Origin' – producing an in-house journal of undergraduate biological research
Level/ Year:	Students completing independent or team research work at Level 2, or independent research work at Level 3
Learning hours:	Not monitored

Work-related learning outcome(s)

Students will have first-hand experience of the complete research cycle: from the inception of an idea, to the execution of a project and then to the dissemination of the results to a wide audience. They will have a full understanding of the process by which scientific knowledge is reviewed, edited and presented.

Description of the teaching activity which achieves the learning outcome(s)

'Origin' is an in-house journal of undergraduate research. Students are encouraged to present their work in an abbreviated format for publication in 'Origin' if they have contributed research work for assessment in the modules named above. The work of each author is reviewed and normally accepted for publication after modifications. A support network for each student author is provided through editorial guidance and the involvement of an academic supervisor from the relevant discipline.

Rationale for the selection of the teaching activity

The publication of significant research results is the concluding stage of a successful research project. Effective communication of research activity is a vital skill for scientists, and 'Origin' gives students the confidence to develop their written and presentation skills. Publication serves as a reward for the student researcher and also benefits the wider student community by providing an accessible form of high quality, reviewed work of an achievable undergraduate standard. Chester College Biology graduates are more likely than the national average to go on to further discipline-specific study, and publication in 'Origin' may act as a stepping stone for some contributors to continue with a research career.

Assessment – approach and detail

The submission and publication of work in 'Origin' is outside the assessed curriculum, although it builds on work submitted for academic credit.

Future developments

The value of 'Origin' to contributing students and readers is currently being evaluated. Staff involved in the development and delivery of 'Origin' are also contributing their views to the future direction of the journal. The results will be disseminated to the wider HE community through the LTSN for Bioscience.

Contact details

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