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Centre for Bioscience Staff and Educational Development Contacts

Welcome to this, the third of our occasional briefings for Staff and Educational Developers. We hope you find the enclosed information interesting and useful.

We appreciate that staff and educational development activity may be spread across more than one department in your institution and we may not have contacted everyone. If you wish to circulate it to colleagues, this briefing is available in electronic format from

<http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/sed/briefing.htm>

To ensure that our records are up to date we would appreciate it if you could confirm your details on the enclosed form and let us know whether you wish to remain as a contact for further mailings. Colleagues who haven't received this mailing directly but wish to register for future briefings and communications are encouraged to contact the Centre (at the below address).

A reminder: The Staff and Educational Developers section of our website is accessible at

<http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/sed/>

New Lecturers Resource Pack – order copies for the new academic year

Those of you who have contact with new members of academic staff may be interested to hear that we have reviewed and updated our resource pack for new academic staff. **A copy is enclosed.** The pack includes subject-specific material to complement the generic information delivered in PG Cert and other staff development courses. Included are details of Centre activities and the support we offer to individuals and their institutions together with lists of selected publications, journals and websites relating to bioscience education.

We are happy to supply you with multiple copies, free of charge. **An order form is enclosed.** We guarantee that orders received by us by 15th August will be with you by early September.

Can we help you by providing other types of information? If so, please contact us with your requirements and we will do our best to help.

Enclosed is a copy of our new Centre leaflet and a poster with details of our forthcoming events. If you would like copies of our other leaflets or publications for your notice boards and resource libraries please complete and return the enclosed literature order form.

**Centre for Bioscience, Room 8.49n Worsley Building,
University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT.
Tel: 0113 343 3001 Fax: 0113 343 5894
email: heabioscience@leeds.ac.uk web: <http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk>**

New lecturers section added to our website

Following a suggestion from Chris Butcher, a colleague in the Staff and Departmental Development Unit at Leeds and a member of our Advisory Group, we have created a button on our homepage (<http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/>) that links to a section of our website for new lecturers.

This area brings together details of the key activities of the subject centre that complement the information, development opportunities and support provided through PG Cert courses and Staff and Educational Development units; details of our resource pack and learning and teaching resources, sources of bioscience education articles and papers, the workshops and events we organise, etc.

<http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/network/newlecturer.htm>

We would be interested in feedback and suggestions of further refinements or additions are welcome.

Centre News

Self and Peer-Assessment Guide available free of charge

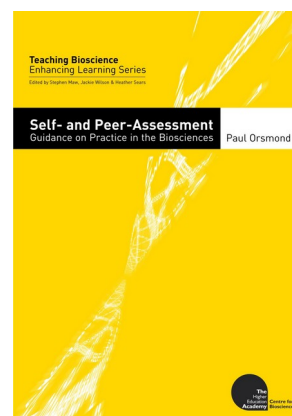
Self- and Peer-Assessment: Guidance on practice in the biosciences by Paul Orsmond is the first guide in the Centre's Teaching Bioscience – Enhancing Learning Series. The Guides are intended to be useful to academics in their first year of lecturing, particularly those who are studying for PG Certificates in Learning & Teaching in Higher Education, as well as to those with years of teaching experience.

The guide includes: a general introduction to the topic; advice on implementing self- and peer-assessment; more in-depth information and the opportunity to investigate the topic further; and a collection of bioscience case studies highlighting how others have introduced the topic into their teaching practice.

The guide is aimed at bioscientists but the majority of the content would also be relevant to staff in other disciplines. A copy of this guide is included in the enclosed Resource Pack for New Lecturers.

Call for Case Studies for our second guide: **The Effective Use of Technology in the Teaching of Bioscience**. Please bring this opportunity to the attention of relevant colleagues; details at

<http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/publications/tbel/call.htm>



A source of research and practice papers and a place for staff to publish their bioscience education papers

Bioscience Education
e journal

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We have now published 5 issues of our journal, Bioscience Education Electronic journal (BEE-j). BEE-j is an on-line, bi-annual electronic journal owned and published by the Centre for Bioscience as a direct response to requests from our community.

This online journal publishes a range of original articles on tertiary level biosciences education, including peer-reviewed research and practice papers, and will be of interest to tertiary level staff and students and to upper secondary school staff.

<http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/journal/>

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Curriculum development audit tools and workshop materials

Audit tools are a good way to initiate discussion and facilitate development on an issue or aspect of the curriculum. They provide a framework to highlight the range of activities which may contribute to a particular issue or area and engaging with individual audit tools can also reassure colleagues that existing practice is effective and optimal or that quite a lot of work may already be developed in the area. **Each audit is intended to be developmental**; designed to help teachers **consider** the content and design of a course/programme with respect to a particular issue and where improvements could be made.

We currently have audit tools on the following topics: Assessment; Employability; Work Placement; Work Related Learning; First Year Experience; The Reverse Employability audit tool – based around a hypothetical programme handbook; External Examining *Institutional* audit tool; External Examining *Examiners* audit tool. An audit tool for student induction (produced by the FDTL4 STAR project) is also available.

<http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/Audit.htm>

Network News

⇒ Linking to and accessing Subject Centre websites

Colleagues working with staff from multiple disciplines may find the following page on the Higher Education Academy website useful, since it provides a single point of reference for all 24 Subject Centre websites: <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/474.htm>

⇒ Support available from other Subject Centres

The following page brings together details of the activities and support other Subject Centres are providing for new lecturers in their disciplines: <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/991.htm>

⇒ Supporting New Academic Staff (SNAS) database

Bioscience and many other Subject Centres have been involved in the SNAS project, working in collaboration with PG Cert course leaders and tutors to:

- Develop discipline specific reading material and resources
- Identify themes covered on initial courses in learning & teaching for new staff for which discipline specific resource materials would be useful
- Design a system for supporting colleagues in using the reading material and resources
- Trial the use of discipline specific reading material and resources

In addition to concise discipline-specific resource lists on assessment, curriculum design and group work some Centres have also chosen and annotated lists on fieldwork, laboratory work, design studio teaching and other discipline-specific topics. This summer, Centres have also submitted lists of selected discipline-specific resources on pedagogical research and e-Learning or employability & enterprise or linking research and teaching or research supervision or developing skills or widening participation. Full details and resource lists at:

<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/SNAS.htm>

Compiled by Dr Jackie Wilson, Subject Specialist, on behalf of the Centre for Bioscience team (July 05).

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