

LTSN Bioscience and LTSN Physical Sciences Special Interest Group on Formative Assessment

Evaluating the impact of innovations in assessment

Two one-day Workshops:

- Loughborough, 4th December 2003
- Newcastle, 8th December 2003

Facilitator: Professor Graham Gibbs, Open University

Purpose

This workshop is for those Science teachers who have introduced changes to the assessment of their courses, or are about to, and who want to know if they 'work' or what impact they have had. The workshop has a practical goal: that all participants leave with a workable evaluation plan they feel confident about implementing. For this reason, each workshop is limited to eight participants.

The workshop will have seven phases.

Before the workshop

1. Those registered will email Graham Gibbs a brief description of their assessment innovation and what they hope it will achieve. These descriptions will help Graham Gibbs to prepare relevant examples of how to evaluate such innovations.

These pre-workshop notes will be summarised and distributed so that participants can see if others have similar concerns.

At the workshop

2. At the start of the workshop, Graham will summarise a variety of ways in which assessment innovations have been evaluated in the past (from the literature) and also in the FAST Project (<http://www.open.ac.uk/science/fdtl/>) and participants will be able to discuss key issues such as:
 - Can you trust what students tell you?
 - Are questionnaires reliable?
 - Can you use exam results as a measure of learning?
 - What well established measurement instruments/tools already exist?
 - How would you develop your own questionnaire?

.....in the light of examples
3. Participants will articulate what they are really interested in finding out and turn this into "researchable questions".
4. Participants will draw up 'first draft' outline evaluation plans and present them on posters for discussion and suggestions for improvement.
5. Participants will revise and develop plans so as to leave with a fairly full second draft.

After the workshop

6. These second drafts will be tidied and sent to Graham Gibbs for mounting on the SIG website for the benefit of others planning evaluation.
7. The FAST project will be able to support participants in their evaluations – with visits, advice, processing of questionnaires, etc – the form of support can be negotiated. Funding is also available from FAST to cover expenses incurred in carrying out evaluations.

One year later (Autumn 2004)

8. A meeting will be reconvened to share the outcomes of evaluations conducted by participants.

Costs

1. There is no fee for the workshop (FAST will cover costs of the meeting room, lunch, refreshments)
2. Participants travelling costs and subsistence will be reimbursed by the FAST Project.

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Please return this document as an email attachment to:

**Heather Sears, LTSN Centre for Bioscience
h.j.sears@leeds.ac.uk**

I am interested in attending the workshop in (delete as appropriate):

Loughborough on 4th Dec / Newcastle on 8th Dec

Title:

Name:

Department:

Institution:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

Special requirements i.e. diet, access:

Please outline the change in assessment you have introduced/ plan to introduce and what you hope to achieve. This will be used by Graham to prepare relevant examples of how to evaluate the change.

The text box will expand as you type.

1) I give my permission for LTSN Centre for Bioscience, the data controller, to use this information in terms of the UK Data Protection Act 1998 in the context of the activities of LTSN Centre for Bioscience.

2) In addition I give my specific permission to the LTSN Centre for Bioscience to give the information to third parties, either on paper or electronically, in support of the work of the Learning and Teaching Support Network

If you do not wish to comply with 2 please delete.

3) Cancellation: in the event of a delegate failing to attend and not informing LTSN Bioscience by at least 5 working days before the event a £25 administration charge will be incurred. The charge will be waived where illness/ family/ home emergency prevents attendance. Substitutions will not incur a fee.