
Departmental Contacts Briefing No. 5 Summer 2002

Hopefully, you will receive this Briefing when exams are over or at least the end is in sight! In this Departmental Contact Briefing we are very pleased to announce our first Departmental Contacts Forum which will take place on 18th/19th September. This is an opportunity for us to say 'Thank-you' for your contribution as a Departmental Contact and we hope you can join us in September.

If you would prefer to read this Briefing on-line (helps avoid having to type in those URLs) or would like to forward information to colleagues, the briefing is available in PDF and rtf formats from: <ftp://bio.ltsn.ac.uk/departmentalcontacts/brief5/>

Departmental Contacts Forum 18 -19th September 2002, Leeds

Programme: This event is intended to bring together LTSN Bioscience Departmental Contacts to share ideas and discuss learning and teaching issues. The programme will include plenty of opportunities for formal and informal discussion with colleagues who share your enthusiasm for learning and teaching.

Timetable: The forum will start at 16.00 on Wednesday 18th September and close with lunch on Thursday 19th September.

Costs: we are able to offer accommodation and all meals free of charge to LTSN Bioscience Departmental Contacts.

Accommodation: The forum will be held at Leeds Metropolitan University Beckett Park Campus in Leeds. Overnight accommodation will be in en-suite rooms at the Leeds Metropolitan University Kirkstall Brewery residences.

Registration: Please register on-line by going direct to the following URL: <http://bio.ltsn.ac.uk/events/registration/dcforumreg.htm>
Places are limited so please register as soon as possible.

New Special Interest Groups

We have recently added two more Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to our existing list:

- Practical Work in the Biosciences^{NEW}. For further information on this Group please go to: <http://bio.ltsn.ac.uk/SIG/practical/index.htm>
- *Teaching Ethics to Bioscience Students^{NEW}
- Plagiarism
- Problem-based Learning in Science Education
- Assessment of Students Working in Groups

Each Special Interest Group has a Co-ordinator (*or Steering Group) whose task it is to facilitate and co-ordinate activities carried out by the Group. The Groups are open to all interested UK HE staff, regardless of role. Interested individuals are requested to register their interest for particular Groups with the Centre (email: ltsnbioscience@leeds.ac.uk). Those who do so will be added to the appropriate distribution list(s) and will thereby be kept informed of their respective Group's activities.

Your help in publicising the existence of these Groups to your colleagues would be greatly appreciated.

Compendium of Practicals for the Biosciences

As you may be aware, we are developing a 'Compendium of Practicals for the Biosciences' to be made available on our website in the autumn. The Compendium will consist of information, materials and teaching and learning resources relating to laboratory, field classes, including evaluated practical exercises, case studies and protocols/handouts, etc. Evaluated examples of alternatives to laboratory and field work will also be included.

We would welcome an input from staff in your Department. Within your Department you must know of examples of practical activities that work particularly well? If your Department has laboratory or field work materials (handouts, etc.) that could be useful to colleagues elsewhere, please let us know (and encourage your colleagues to do so). Further information on the Compendium project and details of how to submit materials can be found on the LTSN Bioscience website at <http://bio.ltsn.ac.uk/NV/compend/uploads.htm>.

LTSN Project: Linking Teaching and Research – call for case studies

The LTSN Centre for Bioscience is involved in a project to investigate how teaching and research can be linked to enrich the student experience. We believe that "teaching in an atmosphere of research" is quite well-developed in Bioscience departments. Consequently, we have a lot to offer other subject areas where this aspect of teaching is not so well developed.

Currently we are collecting short case studies describing of how research is linked to teaching in bioscience departments. If you, or a colleague, would like to submit a case study (and receive £50 for your trouble) please contact Heather Sears, Subject Specialist (h.j.sears@leeds.ac.uk) or go to the Linking Teaching and Research section of our website: <http://bio.ltsn.ac.uk/resources/bioscience/projects/linkteachresearch.htm>

The main project website is: <http://www.brookes.ac.uk/genericlink/>

Teaching Development Fund – next round closes October 25th, 2002

Is someone in your Department looking for money to investigate or develop an aspect of their teaching? We'd like to help if we can. Through our **Teaching Development Fund** we offer grants of up to £2000 (if the project you are considering requires funds in excess of this amount, please contact us) to encourage the development, establishment or validation of learning, teaching and assessment materials or methods. Details of current and completed projects that have already received funding can be found on our website. Full details of the current call, including our assessment criteria and a downloadable application form can be found at <http://bio.ltsn.ac.uk/NV/tdginfo.htm>.

The closing date for this fourth round is **October 25th 2002**.

Supporting Assessment of Work-based learning with PROFILE – Call for end-users

PROFILE is a flexible, generic system to support the assessment for academic credit of work-based learning within non-vocational bioscience sandwich degrees. This generic, web-based system defines work-based learning in a way that forms a foundation for assessing placements for academic credit. The system will monitor, support and assess student placement experience on-line. Initially it will be developed for Bioscience placements but by the end of the project it will be available for all HE institutions.

Are you a potential end-user of PROFILE? Would you like to be involved in the development of PROFILE? Please contact Stephen Gomez (stephen.gomex@uwe.ac.uk) for further information.

LTSN Bioscience Bulletin – would you like more copies?

We aim to distribute a copy of the Bulletin to everyone involved in learning and teaching Biosciences and you have a key role in helping to achieve that aim.

You should recently have received a batch of LTSN Bioscience Bulletin Number 6 Summer 2002 for distribution within your Department/School. If you did not or if you would like to increase/decrease the number of copies you receive of please email your requirements to Gill Sayers (g.sayers@leeds.ac.uk).

And finally.....

* 'Year of Science' Schools Talk Database

* Life Science Careers Conferences

The extra information enclosed with this Briefing have been forwarded on behalf of the UK Life Sciences Committee. As they were associated with student recruitment we were pleased to help. Please can you forward to appropriate members of staff in your Department/School:

Many thanks,

All at LTSN Bioscience
