

Small Group Teaching for Level One Biology Students

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IBLS



Level One Biology

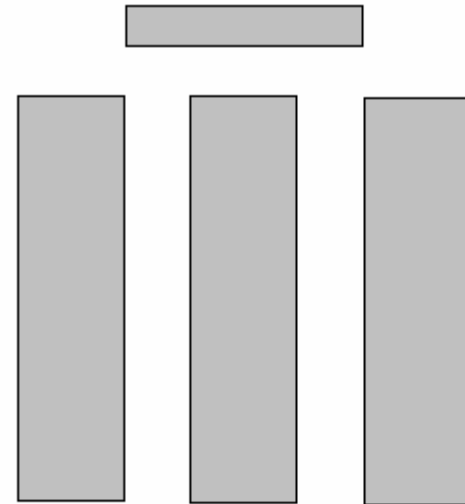
- 700-750 full time undergraduate students
- Wide range of backgrounds
- 4 @ 1 hour lecture
- 1 @ 3 hour lab
- 1 @ 1 hour workshop
- Tutorials during lab time or on request

Lab sessions

- lab runs 14 times per week
- Each group consists of approximately 48 students
- 1 member of staff as lab leader
- 3 post graduate demonstrators
- Other members of academic staff visit the lab they have responsibility for

Lab layout

- Blackboard at front of lab
- 3 benches of 16 students
- For small group teaching students are divided into groups of eight or four



Lifestyle Project

- takes place over five weeks in February & March
- students collaborate in groups of eight

- poster presentation of the contrasting lifestyles of a UK resident and a resident of another country
- participation in a debate-style presentation - “Darwin’s Dilemma”

Cloning discussion

- takes place in lab session
- students collaborate in groups of four, with four groups to a bench
- ethics, technology, problems and triumphs of cloning and gene therapy
- original scientific papers
- “expert” staff to facilitate sessions
- need to share information if they want to understand the whole picture
- encourage students to voice their opinions of the subject

Small group teaching

- self-directed or tutor-led
- duration of exercise
- student collaboration promotes development of relationships between peers
- tutor support allows students exposure to a wide range of staff
- tutor support also allows staff to become involved with Level One students