

**Alternative projects:
Ensuring parity between
project types**

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Problem

- How to ensure parity of supervision
- How to ensure academic parity
- How to ensure assessment parity

Case study

- School of Biology, Newcastle University
 - Three UG degrees
 - All stage 3 students can take projects
 - Three different types of projects
 - Dissertation
 - Research project
 - Biological Information Project

Supervision

- Research project – OK
- Dissertation – reduced input by academic?
- Biological information – reduced ability of the academic supervisor

Academic

- Research project – OK
- Dissertation – OK
- Biological information – depends on the academic supervisor

Assessment

- Research project – OK
- Dissertation – OK
- Biological information – reduced ability of the academic supervisor

Questions

- Should all students be allowed to undertake a research project
- Is the research project the ‘gold standard’
- How do you get staff involved with ‘new’ models?

What we do

- Have a different module code
- Enables us to use different marking schedule
- Kept as uniform as possible between the different project types