

Stretching the able: the Kingston MPharm experience

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The Centre for Bioscience
drew up a report in 2007
entitled:

**“Differentiated Learning:
Stretching the Most Able”**

arguing that “the most
able students are not being
stretched to achieve their
full potential”.

In order to address this potential inequity the following strategy was piloted:

students were selected onto an options module incorporating more advanced material upon achieving sufficiently high standards in core modules.

How did the students do in this module?

Students achieved higher marks in the option module than they did in a core module in which the whole year cohort participated.

But.....

Different modules means we're not comparing like with like!

Happily (?), the following year I was unable to select students onto the option module.

And.....

This time the higher achieving students who took the module did not do better in the option module compared to the core module.

Conclusion

This suggests that able students selected to be academically stretched are able to improve their marks compared to a setting where they are not so targeted.

Raw Data

Selection				
Option Module	Core Module		n	p
67 ± 10	59 ± 9		30	0.0013
No selection				
72 ± 7	68 ± 6		15	0.22