

# Teaching in the Biosciences: An Introduction for postgraduates and postdoctoral fellows

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## Background

Postgraduates and postdoctoral fellows who teach – personal observation is that there is interest but varying support within institutions for their role

There is an opportunity for the UK Centre for Bioscience to offer support and resources and to improve contact with this specific group

## Events

Universities of Glasgow<sup>1</sup> and Manchester<sup>2</sup>

Workshop-based group activities:

- Opportunities for teaching in HE
- UK Centre for Bioscience resources
- What makes a good teacher?
- Small groups and laboratory teaching
- Assessment & Feedback



Breakout discussion session, Lab Practicals, University of Glasgow



Discussion groups, University of Manchester

## Pre-Event Questionnaire

163 responses from 18 institutions

(Tierney, 2010)

**Have you previously heard of the Higher Education Academy, or UK Centre for Bioscience?**

% respondents	Yes	No
Academy	17	83
Centre	10	90

**What kinds of activities would you like to see covered in an event for postgraduates?**

Activity	% respondents
Small group teaching	27
Practicals	26
Assessment & feedback	19
First year experience	16
eLearning	9

## Feedback

One of the participants at the Glasgow event published an article in Bioscience Bulletin (Baker, 2010)

“Boosted my confidence in teaching.”

“A must-do for all postgraduate students involved in teaching.”

“I just wish that I had heard about the UK Centre for Bioscience several years ago.”

## The Future

Further events are proposed:

- Cambridge
- London
- Cardiff
- Belfast

Can you help us with the next venue?

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<sup>1</sup>HEA1 (2010) “Teaching in the Biosciences: an Introduction for Postgraduates and Postdoctoral Fellows”, University of Glasgow Available from: <http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/events/glasgow240210.aspx> [Accessed 31/08/2010]

<sup>2</sup>HEA2 (2010) “Teaching in the Biosciences: an Introduction for Postgraduates and Postdoctoral Fellows”, University of Manchester Available from: <http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/events/manc280410.aspx> [Accessed 31/08/2010]

Baker, K. (2010) “Engaging postgrads and postdocs – a participant’s perspective”, Bioscience Bulletin, 30, Summer 2010, p10 Available from <http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/ftp/newsletters/bulletin30.pdf> [Accessed 31/08/2010]

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