



Centre for Bioscience, Higher Education Academy
Room 9.15 Worsley Building
University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT
Tel: 0113 343 3001 Fax: 0113 343 5894
Email: heabioscience@leeds.ac.uk
www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk

Welcome!

Centre for Bioscience update April 2008

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A Teaching Award scheme has been launched by the Centre to further recognise outstanding practice in learning and teaching in the biosciences. These awards provide an opportunity for bioscience academics to receive national recognition for their outstanding learning and teaching practices. They are open to all UK bioscience academics who work in higher education or who teach higher education in a further education establishment. Further details and the online application form can be found at:

www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/funding/recognition/award.aspx

Anonymous marking of coursework

We are looking for examples of departments that have a policy of anonymous marking of coursework. If you have implemented a simple and robust system for doing so and evaluated its benefits please let us know.

Volunteers wanted to contribute to Reward and Recognition Research

As part of the Higher Education Academy's Reward and Recognition project Sean Walton, Adviser in Research and Evaluation, would like to interview academic staff from the biosciences (and other disciplines) to gather views about the status and rewards accorded to teaching staff within HEIs. This would entail a short interview conducted by a member of the Academy's staff (30-40 mins approx) either in person or by telephone. If you would be willing to be interviewed, please contact Sean (sean.walton@heacademy.ac.uk).

Forthcoming Centre Events

Opportunities to discuss aspects of learning and teaching with like-minded colleagues from across the UK.

Preventing and Designing Out Plagiarism, Tuesday 8th April 2008, Leicester

Further details and free online registration at:

www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/events/bioevents.aspx

Missed an earlier event? Access our *event reports* at

www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/events/reportlist.aspx

News from the bioscience learning and teaching community

The first issue of Bioscience Horizons is now live on the OUP website. It includes the best undergraduate bioscience research from the UK and Republic of Ireland. The journal provides a forum for students, their supervisors and universities, to showcase high quality undergraduate research work, strengthening the link between teaching and research in higher education. All papers are written by students and based on final year research projects.

www.biohorizons.oxfordjournals.org

Intute: Health and Life Sciences have launched two new free online publications.

Focus On...Biodiversity and Conservation

www.intute.ac.uk/supportdocs/focuson/biodiversity.pdf

Focus On...Organic Farming and Agriculture

www.intute.ac.uk/supportdocs/focuson/organicfarming.pdf

These online guides aim to provide useful, detailed, high quality sources of information, and are aimed specifically at students in Higher and Further Education.

Both guides may be freely distributed and copied for educational purposes only.

If you have any feedback on these resources please use the online form at

www.intute.ac.uk/healthandlifesciences/feedback.html

For those running overseas fieldwork, visits or expeditions.

There is a new British Standard BS8848 which has relevance for higher education institutions, academics and support staff involved in activities such as overseas visits, fieldwork and expeditions. The standard was first approved in April 2007 for a 12 month pilot period. At present a consultation process is underway which enables staff to comment on the merits or otherwise of the BS8848 document and the guidance it contains. So, if you or other colleagues in your disciplines do engage in these kinds of overseas activities, you may wish to read BS8848 and submit any views or comments by the 23rd April 2008 to Sarah Horsfield (sarah.horsfield@bsi.global.com). The standard itself is available via a PDF download or hard copy from BSI www.bsi-global.com/bs8848. As a charity, your University or College will be eligible for a discounted rate of £40 obtainable by contacting the BSI shop on 0208 9969001 or by emailing orders@bsigroup.com.

Survey on Accessibility advice - prizes for completion!

The JISC TechDis service provides advice and guidance on the use of technology to achieve a more accessible experience for students and staff in higher and further education. In order to assess their impact in the HE sector, and to inform their future work areas, they are undertaking a web-based survey. They are seeking responses from anyone and everyone working in HE, from a wide range of subject disciplines, role areas and institutions. They are offering everyone who completes the survey the chance to be included in a draw for one of 8 £25 book tokens (usable online and in stores), although it is also possible to complete the survey anonymously.

As a JISC funded service, TechDis must deliver what the sector requires in terms of advice and guidance on accessibility, disability and technology. This is your chance to help ensure that the interests of your subject area or your role group are represented and your needs are met in this area. Even if you have never heard of TechDis please tell us so using the survey - this is still very valuable information!

The survey can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/3DTQFY> - it should take between 2 and 10 minutes to complete, depending on the amount of information you wish to include in your responses. The TechDis team would like to thank you in advance for completing the survey.

Bioscience sector consultation day

If you would like to participate in a crucial phase of the development of a Sector Qualification Strategy (SQS) for the Bioscience sector, please contact either Peter Brogan (pbrogan@semta.org.uk) or Elinor Baker (EBaker@semta.org.uk) for a registration form. The aim of the day is to ensure that the qualifications available across the UK are more effective in equipping people with the skills that employers want and that learners need to secure and maintain employment. The consultation Day will be held at Futurefocus, 1 Victoria Street, London. (Lunch will be included) on Wednesday the 9th April 2008 from 10.30am - 3.30pm.

Events from the HE Learning and Teaching Community

Date: 18 April 2008

Location: King's College, London (Waterloo campus)

Event type: Workshop

Supporting international students: staff development training

This event is intended for teaching staff who work with international students. It will present a training pack commissioned by the Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies for use by education developers (workshop mode) or by individual staff (online mode). The materials provide reflective activities designed to engage teachers with some of the key issues in working with international students and practical ideas for ways in which these can be addressed. It will be of particular interest to new staff or anyone new to working with international students. More information can be found at:

www.llas.ac.uk/events/llaseventitem.aspx?resourceid=2919

With best wishes from all at the Centre for Bioscience,
heabioscience@leeds.ac.uk