

Session No. 5.5a

Developing peer-led learning development support

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Abstract

Our Skills Team has taken the concepts of Peer Assisted Study Schemes (PASS) and developed them further by recruiting 'Skills Leaders' alongside our 'PASS Leaders'. Skills Leaders are trained student volunteers (second year and beyond) who run or co-run independent workshops on learning development topics which are offered to all first year students. PASS itself is relatively new to Hull and expansion of the scheme is slow but steady due to logistical issues. The Skills Leader programme enables us to offer the equivalent personal developmental opportunities to students from departments who are not yet running PASS.

The workshops cover topics such as "Getting ready for University", "Critical thinking and writing", "Planning and structuring essays" and "Revision and exam techniques". Some workshops are run solely as facilitated discussion groups, others start with a 20-30 minute taught session (by Skills Team staff) followed by student-led activities and discussions.

The staff-led introduction provides students with a common framework on which the student-led portions of workshops can build. Staff leave the room during the student facilitated activities/discussions to provide an environment that nurtures independent learning. This sets different expectations to solely staff-led sessions as students must collaborate and debate to draw their own conclusions and solutions.

Results of the scheme have been very positive and we look forward to sharing them with the Learning Development community.

Session outline

This interactive presentation will begin by covering the development of the Skills Leader programme at Hull, inspiring debate amongst delegates about the use of peers in the learning development progress. A short mock peer-led activity will be included (if possible we will bring one of our Skills Leaders but we cannot guarantee availability or funding at this stage). The session will end by exploring the potential for further expansion of student volunteering opportunities in the Learning Development field.

Presenters

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