

Delivering excellence in HE Life Science education

Professor Julian Park

Faculty of Life Sciences Director of Teaching and Learning

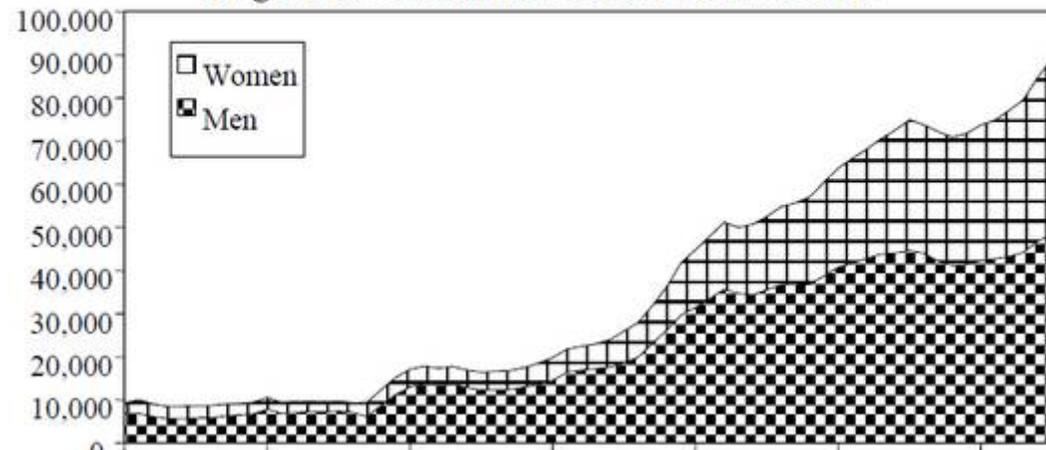
The Line UP.....

- How confident are we as individual educators that we have the “information” technology skills to educate the “Net generation?”

The recent landscape

- Large rise in student numbers
- Funding not increased in proportion
- Top-up fees introduced in 1998

**First Degrees obtained by full-time students at UK
Higher education institutions 1922 to 1993.**



The new dawn

- Introduction of increased fees (£9k per year) from the academic year 2012/13
- ‘Students at the Heart of the System’
- Technological challenges and the gap
- Employment prospects are very important

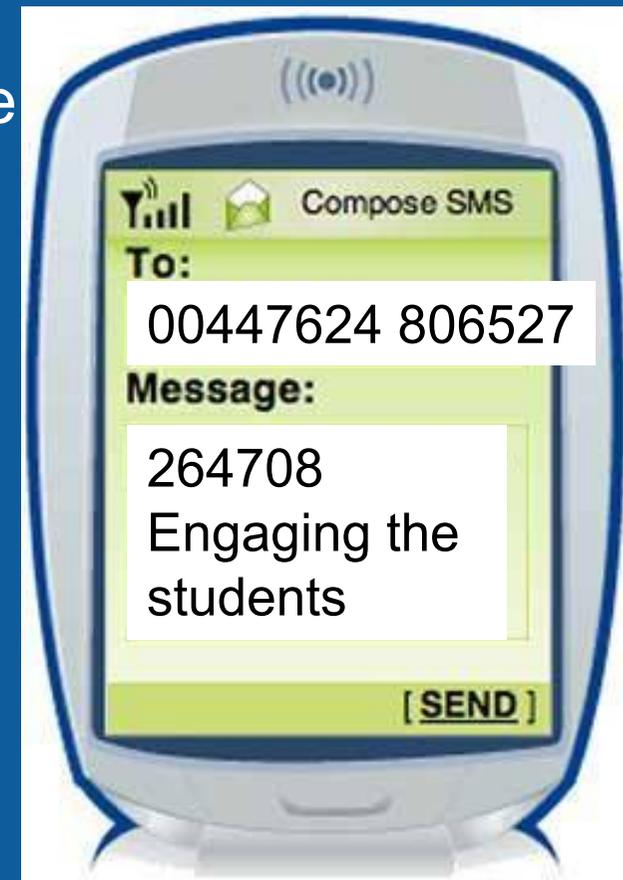
Changing expectations of students

- Students at the “Heart of the System”
- Paying much more....therefore expect more?
- Need to get a better idea of student expectations
- Louise talks about how she feels about paying for her university education (under the current fees system)
- Student Stories <http://www.studentstories.co.uk/>
- The Student Experience Project
- <http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/genetics/genie/projects/experience>

What do you see as the most important educational challenge facing your institution

Live audience poll

- Participate by sending a text message
- Standard rate text message
- Enter the mobile number:
00447624 806527
- In the message section add:
264708
followed by your answer
- Press 'send'



The Challenge at Reading

- Ensuring students continue to come to University
- Engaging students with their learning
- Maintaining dialogue with students & treat them as individuals
- Preparing students for the global employment market

National Initiatives

- The Higher Education Academy (see www.heacademy.ac.uk/)
- National Teaching Fellowship Schemes
- Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice
- National surveys i.e. NSS and DHLE
- Bioscience Teacher of the Year

Local Initiatives

- To improve engagement
 - The Engage websites
 - Enhancing Fieldwork Learning
- To improve dialogue
 - Video and audio initiatives
- To improve employability
 - UROP
 - Bioscience Horizons

ENGAGE in research

The interactive resource for bioscience students

Introduction to the Site

Quick Links

Getting Started in Science, Reviewing Literature, Planning Your Research, Step-by-Step Statistics, Writing Scientifically, Presenting Science, Going Professional, How Do I...?

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Engage in Assessment

An online toolkit enabling staff to enhance all aspects of assessment

Why is assessment important? ...

Assessment design ...

Peer and self-assessment ...

Assessing large numbers of students ...

Using technology ...

Different ways to assess your students ...

Resource database ...

Short videos about assessment ...

Things to do now

Contact us

Improving feedback provision to students

Evidence-based ideas, tools and resources to enhance student feedback

Why is feedback important? ...

Common staff views ...

Getting students to engage ...

Evaluating feedback provision ...

Written assignments ...

Presentations ...

Rapid feedback for first years ...

Quick tips and resources ...

Recent developments in feedback ...

Things to do now

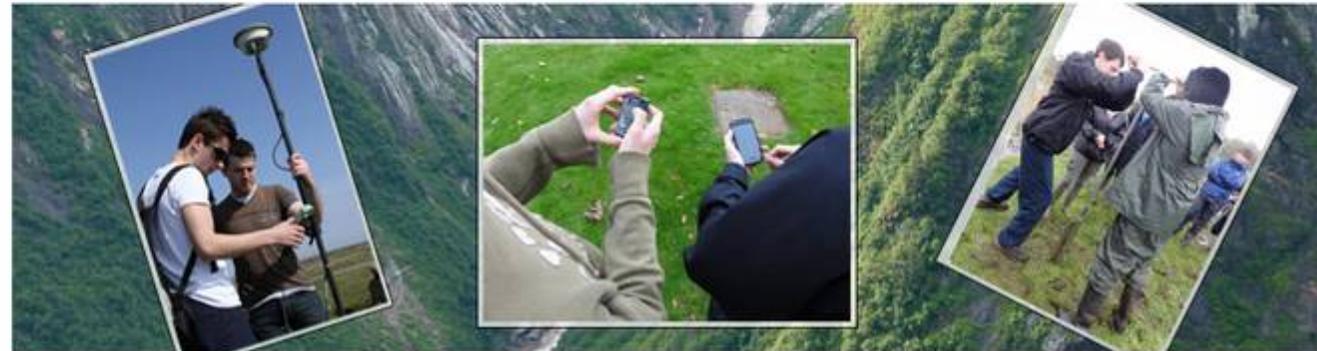
Contact us

www.engageinresearch.ac.uk

www.reading.ac.uk/engageinfeedback

www.reading.ac.uk/engageinassessment

Enhancing Fieldwork Learning

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Enhancing Fieldwork Learning

A 3-year Higher Education Academy NTFS Project

[About Us](#)[Upcoming Events](#)

21st June 2012

<http://www.enhancingfieldwork.org.uk/index.asp>

Resources

Here you will find project resources and external resources relating to fieldwork and technology in fieldwork.

Project Resources

Welsh, K., France, D., Whalley, W.B, Park, J.R, (iFirst) Geotagging Photographs in Fieldwork, Journal of Geography in Higher Education. [\(Click here for downloadable pdf\)](#)

Welsh, K., France, D. (2012) Spotlight on....Smartphones and fieldwork, Geography, Vol.97 (1), p.47-51 [\(Click here for downloadable pdf\)](#)

Enhancing Fieldwork Learning Fieldwork Audit Tool [\(Click here for downloadable pdf\)](#)

Enhancing Fieldwork Learning Technology & Fieldwork Questionnaire 2011 [\(Click here for downloadable pdf\)](#)



Audio and video to improve dialogue



Large classes , particularly in first year present a challenge

Experimented with audio and video to provide rapid feedback

Video used in feed-forward and video-diaries

See www.reading.ac.uk/videofeedback

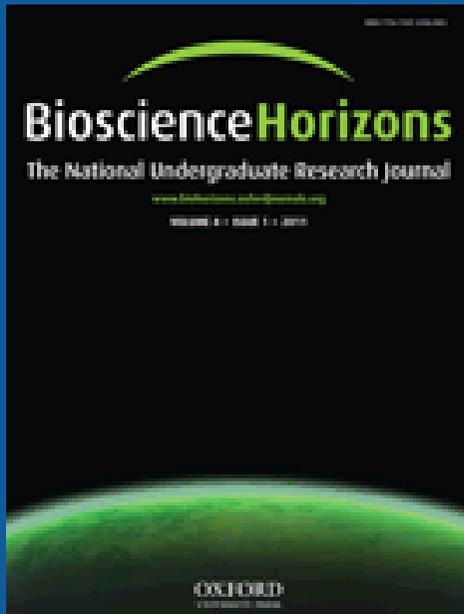
Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (UROP)



- The best thing about the placement was interacting with research students and being able to work by myself and have my own work added to the study" **Alexandra Mackay,**
- "My placement was in a department different from my studies so I gained an insight into a different area. I had a great deal of independence within the framework of this placement, which was important to me." **Ambroise Baker,**
- "It was great to be given both the opportunity to explore my own ideas for the project, but have the support of my supervisor whenever I needed it – it was a really good way to learn." **Ruth Botting,**

Bioscience Horizons

The National Undergraduate Research Journal



- *Bioscience Horizons* is a free online journal publishing 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,
- All papers are written by students and can come from a variety of research projects.
- [Student talking about publishing](#)

Looking to the future

- We will have to increasingly prove excellence in learning and teaching
- Use technology to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of learning
- Continue to share good practice?
- Global opportunities and mobility
- Increased demand for subjects that can demonstrate good employment prospects?