



**The Quality Assurance Agency
for Higher Education**



Enhancing the student experience in Scottish higher education

Enhancement Themes 2003-04 Programme of Assessment workshops

The Enhancement Themes
Working Together for Scottish Higher Education

Assessment workshops

Introduction

As part of the new and unique approach to promoting quality in Scottish higher education, the sector will identify two Enhancement Themes each year. These Themes will form the basis for a programme of developmental work that represents a major, novel opportunity for practitioners at all levels to become actively involved in this initiative.

The chosen Themes for 2003-04 are Assessment and Responding to Student Needs. The aim is to identify the current key issues and challenges, to develop and share good practice in learning and teaching in higher education at institutional level, as well as to develop strategies to support the enhancement of learning and teaching across the sector. It is vital that the new approach is relevant to the needs of both staff and students, and is effective in supporting continuous quality enhancement.

In order to facilitate discussion of the pertinent issues currently facing Assessment, the Enhancement Themes Steering Committee for Assessment has devised a programme of eight Assessment workshops, running from January to June 2004, that will include keynote presentations from leading national and international speakers, supported by relevant case studies from within the Scottish sector. An open invitation is extended to all interested academic, support and educational development staff as well as students. There will be ample opportunity to discover current good practice that is ongoing within the national and international arena, and to explore ways in which this may be harnessed and built upon in the future. The potential for innovation and development is enormous, as are the benefits to staff and students.

The workshops will have a common structure, comprising keynote presentations by leading experts in the fields followed by two or three shorter presentations on related research or case studies from key practitioners in the Scottish HE sector. The workshops will provide a platform for discussion and dissemination of good practice, through break-out groups as well as plenary sessions. The closing sessions will serve to summarise the main issues raised during the day, confirm current established practice, identify ways in which practice may be enhanced in the future, and identify how particular development needs may best be supported, both at institutional level in terms of staff development, and at sector level in terms of strategic initiatives. Dissemination of the day's events will be through the publication of a workshop proceedings that will include an introduction to the Theme, an overview of current literature, the keynote presentation, related case studies and research project findings, as well as a strategic overview of current established practice, key issues and development needs. These proceedings will be published in hard copy for distribution within the Scottish HE sector as part of the series of Assessment topics, and also disseminated through the Quality Enhancement Themes web site (<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/scottishenhancement>).

Assessment workshops

Programme

- Workshop 1** **13 January 2004, Discovery Point, Dundee**
Streamlining assessment: How to make assessment more effective and more efficient
- Workshop Director: Professor David Ross, University of Abertay, Dundee
Keynote speakers: Mr Win Hornby, The Robert Gordon University
Professor Ray Land, Coventry University (formerly of the University of Edinburgh)
- Workshop 2** **5 February 2004, venue to be confirmed**
Using assessment to motivate learning
- Workshop Director: Dr Andrew Eadie, Glasgow Caledonian University
Keynote speakers: Professor Craig McInnis, The University of Melbourne, Australia
Professor Phil Race, University of Leeds
- Workshop 3** **27 February 2004, venue to be confirmed**
Constructive alignment of learning outcomes to assessment methods
- Workshop Director: Professor Mike Osborne, University of Stirling
Keynote speakers: Professor David Boud, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia
Professor Mark Wilson, University of California, Berkeley, USA
- Workshop 4** **19 March 2004, The Robert Gordon University**
Developing a variety of assessment methods, including self and peer assessment
- Workshop Director: Professor David Lines, The Robert Gordon University
Keynote speakers: Professor Trudy Banta, Indiana University, USA
Dr Chris Rust, Oxford Brookes University
- Workshop 5** **16 April 2004, University of Edinburgh**
Assessing online
- Workshop Director: Dr Hamish Macleod, University of Edinburgh
Keynote speakers: Professor Grainne Conole, University of Southampton
Professor Don Mackenzie, University of Derby

Workshop 6 **7 May 2004, venue to be confirmed**
Issues of validity, reliability and fairness

Workshop Director: Ms Pamela Flanagan, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama
Keynote speakers: Ms Jude Carroll, Oxford Brookes University
Ms Linda Suskie, Towson University, USA

Workshop 7 **4 June 2004, University of Glasgow**
Improving feedback to students (link between
formative and summative assessment)

Workshop Director: Dr Bob Matthew, University of Glasgow
Keynote speakers: Professor Dai Hounsell, University of Edinburgh
Dr Randy Swing, Brevard College, North Carolina, USA
Professor Mantz Yorke, Liverpool John Moores University

Workshop 8 **29 June 2004, University of St Andrews**
Assessing personal transferable skills

Workshop Director: Dr Colin Mason, University of St Andrews
Keynote speaker: Dr Peter Knight, Open University

Further details of these workshops may be found on our web site at
<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/scottishenhancement>

Flyers containing detailed programmes for individual workshops will be distributed closer to the date of each event. To register for any of these events, please complete and return the attached registration form, or alternatively, complete the registration form on the web site (under Events or Assessment).

Enhancement Themes

Assessment workshops booking form

Workshop number(s)

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Title Name

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Position

.....

Organisation

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Email

.....

Telephone number

.....

Address

.....

.....

..... **Postcode**

Please indicate any dietary requirements

.....

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Please indicate any other special requirements (associated with mobility etc)

.....

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Signature

.....

Please return this form to:
QAA, 183 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5QD or by email to enhancement@qaa.ac.uk

