

4D Half as Much but Twice as Good? LEAF and New Directions in Assessment and Feedback

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Have NSS scores in assessment and feedback got you down? Have you got another 400 assignments to mark this weekend...and you're pretty sure most students won't even pick them up? Are some students just making the same mistakes over and over? We can help! The LEAF project (Leading Enhancements in Assessment and Feedback) is a two-year, multi-university project which has been looking at ways to make assessment practice simultaneously less overwhelming for staff and more useful for students across a range of subjects. So far LEAF has worked with History, Biosciences, and Economics, and we are beginning to work now with Mechanical Engineering, and Business Management.

In this workshop we will introduce some of the key findings of LEAF. We will look at ways that any subject can look at assessment on a full-programme level to help find where assessment is or is not fit for purpose across the subject, a process known as Curriculum Mapping. Not only assessment needs to be fit for purpose though, feedback that is effective, efficient and fit for purpose may be even more important. We will also discuss how feedback can be approached systematically to reduce the time it takes to mark assignments, while simultaneously helping students make better use of the feedback given. We will offer practice at using clear assessment criteria that can be used to provide feedforward instead of feedback for students. We will also provide practice and practical examples of Electronic Management of Assessment, a broad term covering many innovative tools for making feedback easier to create, update, disseminate, and archive for staff and student use. We will discuss what is known as 'ipstative' feedback, which helps develop a portfolio of feedback over the student's career to see patterns of progress or problems that isolated feedback may not show.

References

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