14th Annual Academic Development Symposium | Thursday 27 April 2023
King’s College Conference Centre, Old Aberdeen Campus and via MS Teams

From Surviving to Thriving: Building Resilient Learners through Assessment & Feedback Programme
09:30-10:00 REGISTRATION AND POSTERS (VOTING CLOSES AT 15:00)
James McKay Hall, King’s College Centre
MS Teams General Room

10:00 WELCOME & INTRODUCTION
KQG5 Auditorium, King’s College Centre
MS Teams Room 1 - Welcome and Keynote

PROFESSOR STEVE TUCKER
Institutional Resilient Learning Communities
Enhancement Theme Lead and Dean for
Quality Assurance and Enhancement

10:00-11:00 EXTERNAL KEYNOTE
KQG5 Auditorium, King’s College Centre
MS Teams Room 1 - Welcome & Keynote

PROFESSOR SALLY BROWN
HE Consultant, Emerita Professor at Leeds Beckett
University & Visiting Professor at Universities of
Plymouth, Edge Hill and Liverpool John Moores

PROFESSOR KAY SAMBELL
HE Consultant & Visiting Professor of Assessment for
Learning at the University of Sunderland
and the University of Cumbria
KEYNOTE: FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING: USING COMPASSIONATE ASSESSMENT & FEEDBACK TO FOSTER ENGAGEMENT & EFFECTIVE LEARNING

Assessment and feedback have a significant impact on the lives of both students and staff: in this keynote, Professors Sally Brown and Kay Sambell discuss the importance of universities recognising that assessment and feedback processes can have a huge positive or negative impact on students, depending on how they are directed, and that staff engaging in designing and marking assessments need compassionate approaches that don’t result in unrealistic workloads or extreme stress for themselves or their students.

Professors Brown and Sambell will further argue that students who engage in authentic assessment tend to have a greater sense of belonging and commitment than those that use only traditional assessment formats. In this keynote, participants will have opportunities to:

- Consider how we can make assessment more compassionate for staff and students;
- Review how authentic assignments can be systematically and efficiently designed to foster student engagement;
- Examine examples of authentic assessment for a variety of different disciplines;
- Consider how to redress imbalances between formative and summative assessment;
- Discuss how changes can be made incrementally to improve the quality of learning opportunities afforded by assessment activities.
11:00-11:15 BREAK AND POSTERS (VOTING CLOSES AT 15:00)
James McKay Hall, King’s College Centre

11:15-12:00 PARALLEL SESSIONS ON RESILIENT LEARNING

CHOOSE ONE SESSION FROM THE 3 BELOW

CO-CREATING LEARNING EXPERIENCES: THE STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Collaboration and partnership between educators and students are at the heart of the current QAA Scotland Enhancement Theme, and co-creation of the curriculum is a powerful way to foster engagement and enhance the student experience. A panel of students, chaired by Professor Ruth Taylor, Vice-Principal (Education), will share their experiences and insights of working in different projects at the University. Their presentations will be followed by an open discussion of the different approaches that can be taken to involve students in the development and delivery of their education. This is a valuable opportunity to hear from the student perspective and gain new ideas for incorporating co-creation in your own teaching practice.

CHAIR: PROFESSOR RUTH TAYLOR Vice-Principal (Education)

PANELLISTS: KRISTINA BENEDIKOVA eLearning Support Assistant, Centre for Academic Development
MAILIE BESSON Student Intern (Transforming the Experience of Students Through Assessment), School of Social Science
EMILY CLELAND Teaching Assistant, School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition
LAURA FORERO eLearning Support Assistant, Centre for Academic Development
JACK MURRAY-BIRD eLearning Support Assistant, Centre for Academic Development
BRENNA QUINTON PGR Student, School of Language, Literature, Music and Visual Culture

ROOM: KQG5 Auditorium, King’s College Centre
MS Teams, Room 2A - Co-creating Learning Experiences
PRESERVING ACADEMIC INTEGRITY IN THE AGE OF AI

Academic integrity and assessment rigour remain a focal point in Higher Education, faced with recent threats from contract cheating websites and the growth of AI technologies. This interactive session offers a platform to explore ways to preserve a culture of honesty and integrity, helping to ensure the protection of our academic standards. Discussions may cover effective assessment design to reduce academic misconduct, appropriate deterrents and approaches to preventing misconduct, and the responsible use of technology to foster a resilient learning community at the University of Aberdeen.

CHAIR:  DR KIRSTY KIEZEBRINK  Dean for Educational Innovation

PANELLISTS:  DR SCOTT ALLAN  Lecturer, Business School
             DR SHONA POTTS  Senior Lecturer, School of Language, Literature, Music and Visual Culture
             DR ARABELLA SINCLAIR  Lecturer, School of Natural and Computing Sciences
             FELICIA ILELADEWA  Student Intern (Academic Integrity), Centre for Academic Development

ROOM:  KCG7, King’s College Building
       MS Teams, Room 2B - Academic integrity
ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS SHOWCASE

EVALUATING AND DEVELOPING THE EXPLICIT TEACHING OF ASSESSMENT SKILLS FOR FIRST YEAR EDUCATION STUDENTS
Faye Hendry, Dr John Mynott, School of Education
with Student Interns Iona Berube and Georgie Smith

STANDARDISED ASSESSMENT RUBRICS – HELP OR HINDRANCE TO FEED-FORWARD? Dr Amudha Poobalan and Dr Leone Craig,
School Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition

DEVELOPING RESILIENCE OF ADVANCED ENTRY STUDENTS THROUGH PEER AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT
Dr Jacqui Hutchison,
Dr Heather Branigan, School of Psychology and Dr Sally Middleton,
Access and Articulation Team

CHAIR: PROFESSOR STEVE TUCKER
ROOM: KQG3 Multimedia Room, King’s College Centre
MS Teams, Room 2C - LTEP Showcase

12:00-12:45 LUNCH BREAK AND POSTERS (VOTING CLOSES AT 15:00)
James McKay Hall, King’s College Centre

12:45-13:45 IN-PERSON WORKSHOP
A PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO DESIGNING AND DELIVERING AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENT TASKS
In this workshop, building on the extensive resources Kay and Sally have created to support staff during pandemic times, (see https://sally-brown.net/kay-sambell-and-sally-brown-covid-19-assessment-collection/), we will review how effective and authentic assessment can be undertaken across the disciplines, with plenty of practical examples showing how participants at the workshop can readily and creatively implement these approaches at Aberdeen. Participants will have opportunities to:
• Consider a practical six-stage approach to designing authentic and constructively-aligned assessment activities;
• Review examples of authentic assessment tasks from across various disciplines;
• Discuss how these kinds of approaches can be implemented at University of Aberdeen
14:00-14:45 PARALLEL SESSIONS ON FEEDBACK & ASSESSMENT

CHOOSE ONE SESSION FROM THE 3 BELOW

RETHINKING ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK: INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO ENHANCE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

This interactive session focuses on innovative feedback practices to enhance student engagement and learning. Panellists will share their experiences and insights on engaging students in the feedback process, as well as any innovative approaches to feedback that can improve student learning outcomes. The sharing of examples will be followed by an open discussion.

CHAIR: DR MARY PRYOR Senior Academic Skills Adviser, Centre for Academic Development

PANELLISTS: EWAN BOTTOMLEY Teaching Fellow, School of Psychology

DR REBECCA WALKER Lecturer, School of Natural and Computing Sciences

DR JEN WALKLATE Lecturer, School of Social Science

LIAM BRADY PGR Student, School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition

ROOM: KCG7, King’s College Building

MS Teams Room 3A - Rethinking Assessment Feedback
DESIGNING INCLUSIVE, FLEXIBLE, ACCESSIBLE AND COMPASSIONATE ASSESSMENTS

This session will provide examples and best practices of inclusive assessment design and a discussion of ways to make assessments more accessible and flexible for students with diverse needs. This is a valuable opportunity to gain new ideas and insights on compassionate assessment practices that can benefit all students.

CHAIR: DR WILL BARRAS Lecturer, School of Language, Literature, Music and Visual Culture

PANELLISTS: DR MONIKA GOSTIC Teaching Fellow, School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition

DR ZESHU SHAO Teaching Fellow, School of Psychology

DR AARON THOM Educational Development Adviser, Centre for Academic Development

ELANA ALATALO Student Intern, Business School

ROOM: KQG3 Multimedia Room, King’s College Centre

MS Teams Room 3B - Designing Inclusive Assessments
SUPPORTING STUDENTS THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF ASSESSMENT LITERACIES

How can we design and implement assessment for learning as well as of learning? And how can we help students understand the assessment process so that they can engage in and benefit from it? This session will explore the development of assessment literacies in both staff and students at the University of Aberdeen.

CHAIR: DR MARTIN BARKER Senior Lecturer, School of Biological Sciences

PANELLISTS: CHRIS GRAY Lecturer, School of Language, Literature, Music and Visual Culture
DR JACQUI HUTCHISON Lecturer, School of Psychology
DR FLURINA WARTMANN Lecturer, School of Geosciences
SAMU TURI Student Intern (Transforming the Experience of Students through Assessment), School of Natural and Computing Sciences

ROOM: KQG4 City of Aberdeen Room, King’s College Centre
MS Teams Room 3C - Assessment Literacies

14:45-15:00 BREAK AND POSTERS (VOTING CLOSES AT 15:00)
James McKay Hall, King’s College Centre

15:00-15:40 EXPERT PANEL

EXPERT-LED DISCUSSION ON ALL ASPECTS OF RESILIENT LEARNING, FEEDBACK AND ASSESSMENT.

CHAIRS: PROFESSOR SALLY BROWN HE Consultant
PROFESSOR KAY SAMBELL HE Consultant

PANELLISTS: PROFESSOR RUTH TAYLOR Vice-Principal (Education)
DR KIRSTY KIEZEBRINK Dean for Educational Innovation
PROFESSOR ANNE TIERNEY Assistant Professor and Institutional Theme Lead, Heriot-Watt University
DR NEIL LENT Lecturer Institute for Academic Development, University of Edinburgh
MILES ROTHOLRL AUSA Education Committee
15:40-16:00

Presentation of Principal’s Teaching Excellence Award, Symposium Poster Competition Awards and Closing Remarks

Presented by Professor Ruth Taylor
Vice-Principal (Education)

Room: KCC Auditorium & MS Teams Room 4 - Expert panel and closing remarks
The Centre for Academic Development supports staff and students from across the University in teaching, learning and professional development.

For general enquiries, please contact the Centre at cad@abdn.ac.uk or +44 (0)1224 27 3030