

TOWARDS FLEXIBILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday 22 January 2009

Title and Presenter:

The newly developed Science Foundation Courses – challenges for staff and students

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Sub Theme & Paper Type:

Flexible People – Showcase

Abstract:

In the 2007/2008 academic year, the Faculty of Science decided to offer BSc courses with a Foundation Year to be taught on Hull campus by university staff. Previously, the first year of these courses, the foundation year, had been run at local colleges such as Wyke College.

As a lecturer teaching in the two chemistry modules on the foundation year I have found that there are enormous challenges posed to staff and students. Staff have to adapt to teaching at a relatively low level of chemistry, essentially A-level chemistry. Students are taught in extremely diverse groups in terms of age, educational background, ability and culture. The course has also proved immensely popular, with subscription in the 2007/2008 academic year already twice the normal Wyke number and with subscriptions in the current year having doubled again, leading to large group sizes.

Views from staff and students on the above mentioned challenges of the foundation year were collected and will be collated and evaluated as part of this showcase presentation. An assessment will be made as to whether the transition to the University Campus has been successful and areas of potential improvement will be highlighted.