

2010 UNIVERSITY ANNUAL LEARNING & TEACHING CONFERENCE

Research and Teaching – correlated or co-related?

Wednesday 13th January 2010

Abstract Template

Language Awareness in Business Studies

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Theme: Learning in research mode through enquiry-based learning

Type of contribution: Showcase

Abstract:

This talk will present a new approach to the teaching of Academic and Business English skills to international students (non-native speakers of English). It will showcase the process of creating a research based assignment in a new level 5 free elective being offered on Scarborough campus. The module in question – English for Business with Language Portfolio (54225) - was devised to allow direct entry students in year 3 the opportunity of taking a Business English module as part of the free elective programme; something denied to them in the past. The addition of a language portfolio to an existing module provided the possibility of asking students to analyse not only their own language style and use but also that of the environment in which they work and study. The intention is that, through a combination of language awareness training and personal research into these varieties of English, students can arrive at a better understanding of the nature of specific language use and their ability to take charge of their own language development. This has obvious implications for their ability to operate effectively in a range of linguistic contexts from the business workplace to the university seminar room.

The talk will demonstrate some of the activities developed to prepare students for this task. It will also include early feedback from students as well as samples of some of the work being generated by such an enquiry-based approach to learning.