



Teaching Matters

Teaching and Learning Development Office

Issue 4, September 2000

EVENTS for September-October 2000

Using LSE teaching facilities effectively

Date: 27.09.00 Time: 12.30pm - 2.00pm

Developing Teaching: funding opportunities and developments at LSE

Date: 03.10.00 Time: 12.50pm - 1.30pm

On-line learning: the LSE experience

Date: 11.10.00 Time: 12.50pm - 1.50pm

Introduction to the LSE Teaching Record, the LSE Teacher Accreditation Programme and Joining the ILT

Date: 12.10.00 Time: 12.50pm - 1.50pm

Voice Training for speakers of English as a second language

Date: 16.10.00 Time: 9.45am - 5.00pm

Preparing for on-line learning

Date: 18.10.00 Time: 12.50pm - 1.50pm

The LSE Teacher Accreditation Programme: programme briefing

Date: 18.10.00 Time: 2.00pm - 5.30pm

Preparing programme specifications and course outlines

Date: 19.10.00 Time: 10.00am - 12.30pm

For further details, see the TLDO website:
<http://teaching.lse.ac.uk>

Contact

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Teaching Development Grants

Bids are invited by 9 October for small grants to improve teaching quality in your department. This year, we have up to six grants each of around £4,000 on offer (using HEFCE Teaching Quality Enhancement Funding). We already have some projects under development - experimenting with different ways of using technology more effectively in course delivery, and with introducing team development into programmes. Contact the TLDO to discuss ideas.

Data projection and networked PCs in classrooms

By the start of the Lent term, 31 teaching rooms will be permanently equipped to show large screen video/DVD or PC presentations. The existing data projection facilities will be upgraded, with 30% increase in image brightness and increased image size. 15 smaller classrooms will be equipped to show video/data presentations on 28" TVs, and all centrally bookable teaching rooms will be equipped with a dedicated networked PC - which can be linked up to a portable projector. If you want to find out more about what is possible, come along to an open session in the New Theatre, 27 September 2000, 12.30pm-2.00pm or contact Craig Hickson, Services Officer (email: Craig.Hickson@lse.ac.uk or ext: 6382)

Videoconferencing and ISDN networks

By the end of Michaelmas term, an ISDN network will be in place which will enable high quality videoconferencing to take place to and from all major lecture theatres and committee rooms. This network will be expanded over the next two years. This facility will enable us to set up videoconferences with any other similarly equipped institution in the world - so you now have the possibility of reaching out to students across the world, or of delivering your lectures to LSE students whilst you are involved in research elsewhere.

Working Group on the role of Information and Communication Technology in teaching and learning at LSE

The Pro-Directors have established a small working group to consider possible directions the School might explore in making best use of technology in teaching delivery. Part of the work of the group will be to draw together the various initiatives that are already under way in the School, and to build on what we have been learning from a series of presentations from partner institutions in the US. Anyone working in this area - be it in academic departments, the Library, IT Services, please get in touch to let us know what is happening (contact TLDO).

Departmental handbooks for occasional teachers

Following the final Committee on Undergraduate Studies meeting last term, the TLDO has produced draft notes of guidance for departments on producing handbooks for occasional teachers. Given the somewhat different cultures and support arrangements in different departments, it makes sense to keep these documents department specific - so these notes simply suggest a structure and highlight important content elements. Contact the TLDO for further information.

QAA visits

This term, we have two major external reviews of teaching quality: Politics (combining Government, International Relations, European Institute and DESTIN) in the week of 23 October and Economics in the week of 4 December. There are two more next term - Philosophy and Business and Management Studies (combining Industrial Relations and IIM).

Teacher Accreditation

The TLDO is launching a pilot teacher accreditation programme this session. We are looking for no more than 10 people who would be interested in working through the programme. We will be seeking ILT (Institute for Learning and Teaching) accreditation during the year. The programme is very much work-based, adaptable to enable you to focus on your particular needs and interests, and is set firmly within the LSE context. It includes an on-line learning environment - encouraging participants to experience first hand the benefits (and no doubt some of the trials!) of capitalising on technology as part of programme delivery.

Student study support

Language Centre: English for Academic Purposes

Do you have students with language difficulties? If so, make sure they are aware of what is on offer at the Language Centre which is substantially increasing its in-session support for English for Academic Purposes. The programme will kick off in week 3 of the Michaelmas Term, with students able to choose from a wide menu of skills workshops, from writing to pronunciation. Each workshop is one hour long - with up to thirty workshops per week for the last eight weeks of term. Anyone requiring more intensive support can book an appointment to see a member of the English teaching team.

Teaching and Learning Development Office: Study Skills

The TLDO is increasing provision for all students through the central study skills programme. We are continuing with the successful lecture series, and following these up with more practical workshops. In addition, each Monday during term time, students may come for one-to-one advice sessions in H417. See the Study Skills flyer for further details.

Modern Foreign Languages

Your students may be interested in developing additional language skills (and indeed staff can also take advantage of Language Centre courses). Learn Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian, Spanish and Portuguese. The Centre has increased the number of places available on its Certificate courses, and introduced Advanced level classes – with eight students per tutor, meeting for one-hour sessions. The MFL programmes are all spread over 20 weeks, starting in week 3.

Students Union: skills development initiative

The Students Union is planning a two day conference in November to help SU Societies organisers, as well as student representatives on committees, to make the most of their experiences, and develop effective skills which could prove useful when they come to apply for jobs in the future.

Helping students to work in groups

A small but increasing number of teachers in the School are getting their students to undertake group projects as part of their course. The experience reinforces and integrates learning achieved through more conventional means, it shows students that there can be a learning culture other than that of individual achievement, and it gives them a better understanding of a capability – that of working creatively and effectively as a member of a team – that all employers look for in the graduates they recruit.

Following the award of a grant to Dr Peter Levin (LSE) and Ivan Kent (Oxford Brookes University) from the DfEE/HEFCE HE Innovations Fund for a two-year project 'Marketing Graduate Skills', the TLDO is able to offer support to teachers interested in getting their students to work in groups on projects or other kinds of coursework. Practical suggestions and ideas are on offer, but the emphasis is on discovering what is most appropriate for your particular circumstances. For further details, contact Peter Levin: p.levin@lse.ac.uk