

[W4] The best of both worlds? Experiencing research through teaching

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For many academics the link between student learning and staff research within their own discipline lies at the centre of what is distinctive about higher education. There is a strong tradition across the sciences of linking research with teaching and evidence that students value and are motivated by the experience of studying in a research-rich environment.

However, do you explicitly articulate for your students, colleagues and yourself that activities used in your teaching are based on the research process? Do students understand the research environment within their department? Could the link between teaching and research be made more explicit and exploited more effectively for the benefit of staff and students?

The main aim of the workshop is to challenge you to review and evaluate existing practice within your department and to think about ways of developing and integrating research practice into your teaching.

You will have the opportunity to:

- (1) discuss the teaching-research 'nexus' in the context of your discipline;
- (2) reflect how students experience the research context in your department;

- (3) review a wide range of ideas (presented through short case studies) of how to integrate research into teaching;
- (4) consider how the above ideas could be applied to your teaching practice.

A report of the workshop outcomes will be made available on the conference website.

REFERENCES

- Jenkins, A. and Zetter, R.** (2003) Linking Research and Teaching in Departments. York: LTSN Generic Centre. Available at: http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/resources.asp?process=full_record§ion=generic&id=257 (accessed 19 May 2005)
- Sears, H.J. and Wood, E.J.** (2005) Linking teaching and research in the biosciences. Bioscience Education E-Journal volume 5 available at <http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/journal/vol5/beej-5-4.htm> (accessed 19 May 2005)

LINKS

Higher Education Academy Subject Centre for Bioscience: Linking Teaching and Research in the Biosciences: <http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/projects/ltr/>

Higher Education Academy: Linking Teaching and Research: <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/850.htm>

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