

2A Sometimes Students Make the Best Teachers: Developing and Enhancing Graduate Skills

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This paper demonstrates good practice in developing and enhancing the graduate skills and experience of Senior Honours students in Digital Media and Information Studies by engaging these students as demonstrators for the computer-based lab sessions that form part of the DMIS Level 1 courses.

The presentation will be delivered by both programme staff and students taking part in the scheme this year, and include input from previous years' cohorts to demonstrate the effectiveness of the activity on employability. This input will be as videos embedded in the presentation to demonstrate the international impact from students who were demonstrators last year and now work in overseas. Preliminary results from a current year-long study are presented, providing qualitative evidence for the efficacy of the scheme from the perspective of both student and demonstrator. For example:

“I just wanted you to know how helpful [named demonstrator] has been in my labs over the last few weeks. She's guided me in some detail through what happens in Year 2 and at Honours level which has probably convinced me to keep going with DMIS.”

“It's been extremely useful to get some specifics from someone who's already been through it, and I didn't even have to ask - it was just born out of a chat. “

– Feedback from 2015-16 DMIS 1B students.

The paper reflects on the success of embedding the University's graduate attributes into this scheme, including: 'Subject Specialist', 'Confident', 'Effective Communicators' and 'Resourceful and Responsible'. This study demonstrates that development of these attributes is achieved not only through classroom activities but through the application of training and accreditation, in the form of University of Glasgow GTA training, Subject meetings, and support to apply for Associate Fellow of the HEA. This training and support is aligned to the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) professional accreditation for the Single Honours DMIS degree, ensuring our demonstrators graduate with a firm set of graduate attributes and employability skills.