



Call for Case Studies of Good Practice in Mathematical Sciences in Higher Education

The Higher Education theme of the *more maths grads* Project has undertaken a programme of activity to review learning, teaching and assessment methods used by HE mathematical sciences departments to explore how students may be better supported during their studies, and how their learning experience may be enhanced.

The recently commissioned national HE STEM Programme (www.stemprogramme.com), as well as rolling-out nationally the work of *more maths grads*, has STEM-wide programmes of activity focusing upon student support and the HE curriculum to encourage those currently within the UK workforce to engage with learning, and to ensure students graduate with the skills required by employers.

To act as a catalyst for further activity and to encourage the transfer of effective practice, the *more maths grads* Project is seeking to collect and collate case study examples of effective practice from across the mathematical sciences community in the following areas which align with the activities of the national HE STEM Programme:

1. Easing the transition to university study for non-traditional learners;
2. Easier accessibility for part-time learners;
3. Student support and effective practice in retention;
4. Employability and meeting employer needs;
5. Innovative practice in learning, teaching and assessment methods;
6. Innovative developments to the undergraduate curriculum;
7. Engaging students in the undergraduate curriculum.

Case studies should focus upon interventions to support specialist (single or joint honours) mathematical sciences students, and not non-specialist students studying components of the mathematical sciences as part of their programmes of study in other disciplines (for example Engineering and Physics).

The case studies will be collected together and published in a Good Practice Guide along with a number of key outputs from the HE Curriculum strand of the *more maths grads* Project. The guide will be disseminated via a series of regional workshops, and authors of accepted case studies will be asked to present their case study at one of these events.

Authors of case studies accepted for publication will receive a fee of £1,000, and this fee includes authors presenting their work at one of the six regional workshops (reasonable travel expenses will also be provided).

About the Case Studies

Each case study should be between 1500 and 2000 words (excluding references), and while the Editors of the guide are keen to allow flexibility in how authors structure their case study, there is a need to ensure a degree of consistency to ensure quality of publication. The Editors therefore would like to see case studies that include a commentary under each of the following headings:

Abstract: Case studies should begin with a brief account of the background and rationale of the work; and, a statement of the main conclusions or findings. This should be no more than 100 words and should not include references, numbers, abbreviations, or acronyms.

Background: An explanation of why the practice was initiated or necessary and, if appropriate, a brief explanation of previous practice.

Implementation: A detailed description of the changes to practice implemented and how they were implemented.

Barriers: Details of the barriers encountered during the implementation process, and if appropriate, subsequent or ongoing barriers encountered.

Enablers: Details of the enablers that helped facilitate implementation of the practice, particularly in terms of a departmental or institutional perspective.

Evidence of success (impact): Details of how the practice is known to be successful. In particular, the Editors would like to see examples of successful evaluation, student feedback, and if appropriate, evidence of wider impact, possibly beyond the original HEI(s) involved.

Quality Assurance: How quality assurance for the intervention is assured.

Recommendations for others: Details of lessons learned, and key suggestions that will enable others to implement more effectively the practice described within their own institutions.

Other: Any other comments or observations that the author of the case study may wish to make.

Authors may include references, but these should be limited to a maximum of five items.

Submission Process

Those wishing to submit a Case Study for potential inclusion within the Good Practice Guide are **first** required to submit a 250 word abstract describing the nature of the Case Study and the practice that will be contained within it. This should provide sufficient information for the Editors to make a decision on whether it will be accepted for inclusion. Potential authors are also asked to provide brief details of the Evidence of Success/Impact they have for the practice they are describing.

Abstracts should be submitted online either by visiting:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=F1UDo4MQyxlq3a00xA6oTg_3d_3d

Or by visiting the front page of www.mathstore.ac.uk, or, www.moremathsgrads.org.uk.

Abstracts should be submitted by the 5th October 2009 with full case studies provided no later than the 9th November 2009.

The Editors will endeavour to contact all authors by the 9th October so that those selected for inclusion may commence writing.

For informal queries, please contact Michael Grove (m.j.grove@bham.ac.uk).