

Intervention Design

The intervention took place in the final three weeks of the students' first term on a business degree programme. It involved students in preparation work, participation at a workshop, and the submission of a self-assessment sheet along with their coursework to be handed in at the end of the first term (three weeks after the workshop).

The detail of this intervention was as follows:

- a) A week before the workshop all students on the module were provided with 2 sample assignments and marksheets including assessment criteria and grade definitions. Students were asked to individually complete the marksheets providing a grade, marks and rationale/feedback for each of the assignments before coming to the workshops.
- b) Workshops (90 minutes long) were offered to all students in groups of 40. (Student attendance at these workshops was optional.)
The workshops were structured in the following way:
 - I. Student discussion in small groups of their initial individual marking of the two sample assignments
 - II. Feedback of small groups' agreed grades and rationale to plenary
 - III. Tutor-led comparison of provided rationales with criteria
 - IV. Tutor explanation of each criterion
 - V. Small groups review assessment and grade in light of tutor explanation
 - VI. Final report from small groups to plenary of grade for each piece of work
 - VII. Tutor provided annotated and marked versions of samples and discussed tutor assessment and mark.

The small group discussions allowed the student to compare and justify their initial assessment of the work against that of others as well as allowing the declared grade to be the responsibility of the small group. However the students were asked explicitly not to change their initial grading on their individual sheets.

- c) Three weeks later, students submit their coursework along with a completed self-assessment sheet.

The marksheets used for the sample assignments, the tutor's actual assessment of the students' submitted work, and for the students' self-assessment were the same, incorporating comments, a module assessment grid, a grade and a mark.