

Associate Lecturers' Involvement in Improved Practice in a SXPS288 Labcast Delivery

Venetia Brown (Knowledge Media Institute), Alan Cayless (School of Physical Sciences)

Aim

To investigate Associate Lecturers (ALs') experiences and perspectives on a labcast

Context

Labcasts provide STEM students an interactive opportunity to observe and engage in practical science demonstrations through synchronous (real-time) polling widgets and instant messaging.

SXPS288 'Remote Experiments in Physics and Space' has been rewritten for 19J with a new planetary science experimental investigation which will take place in the second half of the module.

As this project and experiment are new, the labcast will serve as an introduction to the project and will form part of the ALs' training for the module.

Research shows that tutors favored 'familiarisation activities' to help build confidence before using synchronous online tools (Kear, Chetwynd, Williams & Donelan, 2012).

The discrete labcast will give remote AL's an opportunity to engage, ask questions and understand the labcast's tools and the student experience of participating in labcasts.

Areas of Investigation

- Increased confidence
- Increased knowledge
- Sense of Community
- Interactivity
- Effectiveness

Kear, K., Chetwynd, F., Williams, J., & Donelan, H. (2012). Web conferencing for synchronous online tutorials: Perspectives of tutors using a new medium. *Computers & Education*, 58(3), 953-963.

Research Design

Mixed method, triangulation design

Observations

- Labcast logistics and presentation process
- Stadium Live data logs
- Tutor forum

Questionnaires

- Pre & post survey on ALs' attitudes & opinions

Focus Group

- Elicit AL reflections and perspectives

Expected findings

The project will evaluate the following:

- Soft impacts such as increased confidence, knowledge and attitudes around labcasting
- Sense of community among ALs before and after labcast participation
- Impact of labcast on tuition strategy
- How understanding the student experience helps ALs in their support of students

Outcomes

- Results and recommendations disseminated to other module teams in the School of Physical Sciences who use labcasts
- A video resource of the labcast process and live event for module teams across STEM