

Peer Observation for Informatics Teaching

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10 May 2016

1 Introduction

The University policy is that each school should have a system of peer observation of teaching within that school¹. Here is an outline of what that involves, and a suggestion of how to put this into practice for the session 2016–7.

2 Outline

- To allow sharing of experience and feedback on teaching (usually lecture, possibly seminar, practical session . . .);
- Done in pairs, self-selecting (maybe not reciprocal);
- Entirely confidential to the two people involved.
- **Not** intended as observation by line managers!
- Related area of expertise normal but not required.
- Observers to change (at least) every two years.

The general University advice on preparation and feedback is on-line as part of the description of the scheme. There is a pro-forma that might be used to structure the session and feedback².

3 Proposal

- We apply a version of this scheme next academic year, to teaching staff.
- At the start of the year, teaching staff are invited to let the ITO know of the pairings within a suitable time frame.
- The ITO monitors the situation, recording when peer observation has taken place, and reminding those not yet signed up.
- From University guidance:

Only if [*peer observation*] cannot be arranged informally will the Head of School (who has formal responsibility for establishing and monitoring the scheme) intervene.

¹<http://www.ed.ac.uk/academic-services/quality-unit/quality-enhancement/peer-observation>

²<http://www.docs.sasg.ed.ac.uk/AcademicServices/Quality/QE/PeerObservationOfTeachingProforma.pdf>