

Title: **Assessment strategies developed by a student partnership project.**

Presenter: **Karen Fraser, Jade Currie**
Queen's University Belfast

Session Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- Reflect upon the group processes and dynamics that characterise a University project involving staff and student collaboration for a mutual goal.
- Understand the practical successes and challenges in implementing a partnership project.
- Evaluate the outcomes of such a partnership project in terms of both pedagogic outcomes as well as the formative development of student and staff parties involved.

Session Outline

The Queen's University Student Partnership Project brings together student and graduate interns, the Student's Union, staff in faculties and the Centre for Educational Development as a collective with the same aim: academic enhancement. By providing an avenue for collaboration across the institute a diverse range of insights, experiences and skills can be employed to discover and implement innovative assessment strategies for the mutual benefit of all parties involved.

Interns were allocated to eleven Schools and paired with academic partners. The Student Union helped recruit the interns and the Centre for Educational Development led on academic enhancement. Coming towards the end of the project there have been a number of significant changes in practice across the institution and some surprising research outcomes.

Continuous evaluation of the project as it unfolds allows us to understand the evolution of group dynamics, relationships and formative development, both at the individual and collective level.

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

We will give a short introduction of the project and how it has progressed so far. Then we will describe and discuss the process of evaluating the partnership project itself and the benefits of understanding development within a partnership.

Potential discussion questions:

- What characteristics do you think a 'good' or 'successful' partnership between staff and students would have? i.e. what operational definition would you give to describe a 'good' student-staff relationship?
- What would we do different if we were to start again?
- How would you evaluate this project? In terms of formative development for student interns involved? Based on the quality of the assessment strategies developed? Based on the quality of the relationship that develops between staff and students? Based on a cost-benefit ratio? Sustainability?

References