

**SEDA Spring Teaching Learning and Assessment
Conference 2014
Engaging Students: Engaging Staff**

Copthorne Hotel Newcastle

15th - 16th May 2014



Proposal Form

Proposals should be submitted **electronically** to the SEDA office at conferences@seda.ac.uk by Monday 4th November 2013.

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Title of proposal: *Horses for courses or a grumble in the jungle? HE in FE student perceptions of the HE experience in a Landbased college*

Format:

Poster session

Session Learning Outcomes

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

- HAVE GAINED INSIGHT INTO HE in FE STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR EXPERIENCES OF STUDYING HE IN AN FE (LANDBASED) COLLEGE ENVIRONMENT
- BEGIN TO APPRECIATE THE UNDERLYING TENSIONS AND DIFFICULTIES THAT EXIST WHEN DELIVERING HE WITHIN AN FE COLLEGE
- CONSIDER THE CULTURAL DIMENSIONS OF FE AND HE AND HOW THEIR INTERPLAY CAN ADVERSELY AFFECT THE EXPERIENCE OF HE in FE STUDENTS

Session Outline (no more than 300 words)

The poster will present a summary of preliminary findings regarding the perceptions of the legitimacy and quality of the HE student experience through the lens of those studying Animal/Equine Studies Foundation Degrees and BSc degrees within a small, ostensibly FE Landbased college setting.

As part of a PhD study, research data was collected using two student focus groups. Empirical student perception data from Animal/Equine Studies students gathered

whilst discharging External Examiner duties at six English FE Landbased colleges from 2007-2013 was also included.

Despite FE college claims regarding the 'supportive environment' and 'small classes' being the USP for those studying HE in FE (as opposed to HE within the university sector), responses from Animal/Equine Studies students reported dissatisfaction with regard to the predominating FE culture, as well as concerns surrounding their HE status and the perception of others, as being *bona fide* HE students. Drawing on Bourdieu's conceptual framework of *habitus* and *field* and notions of an *institutional habitus*, the HE in FE student experience is contextualised, together with recommendations for enriching HE in FE from the student perspective.

With an increasing push for more HE in FE provision, this study is timely and could help to inform the HE in FE experience for students across the UK.

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

Poster will have sections outlining background to study, a mini lit review, methodology, results and findings from the student focus groups and a discussion and recommendations section.

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