

## HSS21 celebrates good teaching

Students have recognised the dedication and ingenuity of staff across the institution in this year's Huddersfield Student Survey.

Prof Jane Owen-Lynch, PVC for Teaching and Learning, said that an analysis of the Huddersfield Student Survey, issued to all non-final year students, revealed a small increase in overall satisfaction scores despite the challenges faced in this academic year.

Scores for teaching increased by 5.9% over 2019-2020, assessment and feedback scores improved by 6.3% and organisation and management scores were up by 7.4%.

"This is testament to the hard work put in by our teams of academic and support staff across the University in what has been an incredibly challenging year," Jane said.

"I have been very privileged to read all the comments made by students in the HSS, which have pointed to the dedication of our teaching community in delivering an excellent learning experience."

As anticipated the HSS scores for learning resources and learning communities were significantly down

on last year with the vast majority of negative comments made by students referring to the limitations placed on access to campus and specialist workshops as a result of national Covid restrictions.

Comments from students included:  
*...I love how friendly and willing to help the lecturers are...*  
*...online lessons have been interesting and practical work was fascinating when we were able to be on campus for it...*  
*...the university has handled the covid situation well....*  
*...I would like to say a massive thank you to my tutors...*

Jane said: "The HSS allows us to look carefully at what worked well this year as we plan our teaching and learning for September 2021.

"Students are telling us that while they are looking forward to coming onto campus to study, there are things which worked well for them in an online environment, and we need to evaluate their feedback and take account of it in

structuring our programme of teaching and learning in readiness for next year.

"For example, Personal Academic Tutorials appear to have worked well using Teams, and students have appreciated being able to review sessions in an asynchronous way.

"I am liaising with Associate Deans and Directors of Teaching and Learning over the HSS findings and encourage you all to share the good practice our students have identified, and also work to improve in those areas flagged as needing investigation.

"My thanks again for all your hard work in what has been an exceptional year."



**Prof Jane Owen-Lynch**  
PVC for Teaching and Learning

### Breakout rooms and music sharing from Macs: update

Breakout rooms arrived on the Teams meetings platform in March, and many staff have already been using them in online teaching sessions for small group discussions.

For those of you new to breakout rooms, guidance on how to use them is available on the MYMO module in Brightspace [here](#).

Microsoft has also improved functionality for Mac users to enable them to share audio in Teams meetings - for example music tracks

or YouTube clips.

This was released at the end of April, slightly later than we had expected. Staff are reminded that they should update their Teams app to access new functionality.

Further improvements to Teams are planned by Microsoft over summer, including better whiteboard integration and attendance lists. We will continue to issue updates as new functionality is released.

# Embedding accessibility in Brightspace material for September

As we start to upload materials to Brightspace in preparation for the 2021/22 academic year, we need to ensure we are compliant with [accessibility regulations](#) which came into force in 2018.

Andy Eachus, our specialist accessibility Digital Skills Trainer has prepared training materials to help us navigate the six basics of the SCULPT protocol. This steers us toward checking:

[Structure and layout](#)

[Colour and contrast](#)

[Use of Images](#)

[Links](#)

[Providing Subtitles](#)

[Tables](#)

Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Adobe Acrobat Pro have built in accessibility checkers that flag up any issues,

explain why they should be fixed and how these fixes can be made.

[Ally which works in Brightspace](#) also helps to identify accessibility issues with digital content.

Applying these considerations ensures that the content is compliant, inclusive to all and accessible using assistive technology.

The links in this article take you to guidance pages.

The [Digital Accessibility Quick Checklist](#) is a good starting point and gets very positive feedback from those who have used it.

For more support, Andy runs workshops on making teaching materials accessible, and also offers individual support. He can be contacted via [a.eachus@hud.ac.uk](mailto:a.eachus@hud.ac.uk)



## GPA offering paid work for postgrad students

The Global Professional Award team is recruiting assessors to help them mark the thousands of assignments generated this year.

GPA manager James Forde said that the submissions are marked on a pass/fail basis, and the work might appeal to postgraduate students looking to get some experience in assessment.

The rate is £14.46 per hour, and markers

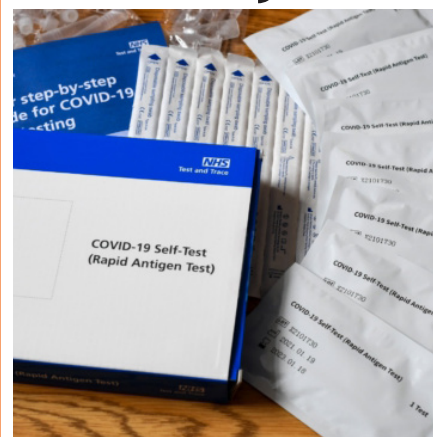
would need to be able to commit to 15 hours work per week.

The candidate needs to retain good attention to detail, and be able to manage repetitive tasks.

If you have postgrads who you think might be interested, ask them to contact James for more information.

[j.forde2@hud.ac.uk](mailto:j.forde2@hud.ac.uk)  
[students.hud.ac.uk/studies/gpa](https://students.hud.ac.uk/studies/gpa)

## Covid test kits for home use to be available from our campus by mid May



The University is looking to join the LFD Collect programme, where lateral flow devices used to test for Covid, can be given to students and staff to use at home.

This will augment our on-campus LFT Test Centre by providing distribution points where students and staff can pick up the Lateral Flow Home-Test kits. Project manager Andy Raistrick said that this will allow members of our community to test for Covid at home before making a decision on whether to come onto campus, in line with the system operated in schools.

The tests are packaged and designed to be easy to administer at home, with results within 30 minutes.

Andy said he is hoping to have the distribution system operational by mid May as soon as the agreement with the Department for Health and Social Care has been signed off.

The University will continue to operate its Covid testing centre on campus, for information on how to book, and updates on test centre opening hours, please follow [this link](#).