

The importance of PATs in online learning spaces

Welcome to the second of our TL newsletters where we will be sharing developments and challenges in teaching and learning with all colleagues across the institution.

One area we would like to explore in this issue is Personal Academic Tutorials and how to get the most out of them in online environments.

PATs currently have a vital role in helping students transition to remote study, working with them to develop new approaches to academic work in a period of rapid and significant change. If you have not already done so, please contact your tutees as soon as possible to arrange an online tutorial with them at your earliest opportunity.

Useful themes to cover at present include revision strategies, note taking, assessment practices, use of feedback, time management, negotiating time and space for at-home study, careers and progression opportunities.

More generally, studies reveal we

can help students handle stress by emphasising confidence, control and an approach focus, ([Jones, et. al., 2009](#)). While Prof Marc Jones' work was originally conducted in the context of sports performance, his current studies show that the same principles apply to students dealing with stressful events in their studies.

Control is particularly important, since students who focus on what they can control tend to deal better with demanding situations. Similarly, an approach focus means keeping your attention on what you're trying to achieve, not on what may go wrong. Prompting tutees towards these ideas during tutorial discussions is therefore likely to be a productive strategy in the current climate.

If using Zoom to conduct tutorials, we recommend that you go into your settings at <http://hudac.zoom.us> and enable the Waiting Room option. This will avoid tutees crashing a tutorial that's



already in progress. Please make sure you are familiar with the up-to-date COVID19 advice whilst conducting tutorials. Further PAT resources are available on [ipark](#).

We are currently developing a PAT Module in Brightspace to help you manage tutorial bookings and automate communications with tutees, and would like to trial this with a limited number of PATs, with a view to making it available more broadly in September. If you are interested in taking part in this trial, please contact:

Cheryl Reynolds: c.reynolds@hud.ac.uk

New team appointed to lead the Global Professional Award in readiness for September launch

Five new staff have been appointed to lead the roll out of GPA in September.

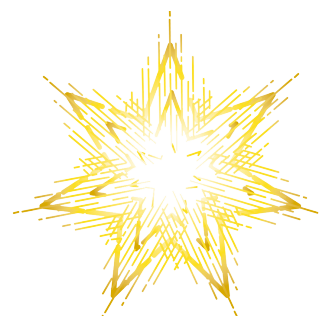
Despite the current limitations in accessing campus, we have been able to hold interview panels and are delighted to announce that we have appointed a GPA manager, three GPA trainers and a GPA administrator.

They will be joining us in May and you will be getting to know them over the Summer period as they develop the GPA programme for delivery across all Schools from September.

Campus closure meant that planned information sessions which were due to be delivered in each School were postponed, though we hope to be able to deliver these online over the next few weeks. In the meantime, you can find out more about GPA [here](#).

As part of our preparations for September, we have created a dedicated training room for 100 students and have also ring-fenced several smaller or part time spaces in which to deliver the training.

Project development manager Andy Raistrick said: "I am looking forward to working with our new GPA team, and to rolling out the programme across the University in the next academic year. I would like to thank all schools and services for their support, and also for the use of their facilities to enable us to take the project forward."



**GLOBAL
PROFESSIONAL
AWARD**

Scheduling meetings in Brightspace

Create New Meeting

Basic Information

Meeting Name*

Meeting Interval

15 minutes

The meeting interval will be used to determine how long each meeting will be. This is set once for the entire meeting.

Meeting Availability

☒ Allow all permitted users to be booked

☐ Allow only creating user to be booked

☐ Allow only listed users to be booked

One of the tools in Brightspace which staff might find useful at the moment is the meeting scheduler.

It gives the students a selection of timeslots which they can book to see a member of staff, and works well for setting up PAT sessions, feedback tutorials and dissertation meetings. The tool works a bit like a Doodle-poll where students can see remaining availability.

Module leaders have control over the length of the meeting slots and where there are a number of tutors on a module, they can allow the student to select which tutor they need to see.

While there are a lot of tools available for meetings with students, including Zoom and Skype, don't forget a simple phone call can sometimes do the trick.

For help setting up the meeting scheduler, there is a [Brightspace Guide](#) on iPark or on [Unilube](#)

Zoom online workshop

Sue Folley is running a session on How to Keep in Touch with Your Students using Zoom on Wednesday 29th April at 12 noon.

This includes information about the different ways of setting up meetings, what some of the Zoom jargon means, how to share screens and how to use some of the more advanced features in the package.

If you would like to join this session, email Sue at learning.bytes@hud.ac.uk and she will send you joining instructions.

Sharing good practice in online environments

Academic staff have had to make very rapid changes to the way they teach over the past few weeks, moving into a model entirely dependent on online technologies.

We have seen the emergence of online “champions”, those colleagues who have seen the potential of tools offered in Brightspace and beyond and have explored how they are best used to continue to make teaching and learning interesting and engaging.

If that is you, we would love to hear from you.

We are starting to put together a short training programme on teaching in online environments and would like to include case studies and examples on how you have used materials and tools available to you so that we can share them with colleagues.

It could be that you have found innovative ways to facilitate group working, or redesigned presentation-based assignments to make good use of audio-visual tools.

Sue Folley, our Learning Technology Advisor, said: “We know we have staff who love to explore new ways of working, and it would be great to include some of your ideas in our new training programme.”

“We are very conscious that we have staff who are perhaps not so confident in online



environments, and we hope to put together resources and materials which will help them to make good use of the tools available in developing engaging teaching.

“We would also like to include our online champions in a peer support group so that they could mentor new staff, and those new to navigating in online environments.”

If you would like to share innovative practice, or get involved in mentoring staff in online environments, please email Sue at S.Folley@hud.ac.uk, and include information about the area you teach in and how you would like to get involved.

Annual TL conference postponed to next year

The current campus closure unfortunately means that the very active workshop-based Teaching and Learning Conference we had planned for June 2020 has had to be rescheduled.

This conference “Closing the Gap” will now take place during the next academic year, with the focus on differential attainment.

We hope to share ideas on how to best support our students and enable us to reach our target of reducing the attainment gap to zero in alignment with the University's Strategy Map for 2025.

Conference convenor Jane Wormald said: “We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has put such a lot of work into planning their workshops and seminars already.

“Whilst we could have asked people to make these workshops virtual, it is a big ask when there are already enough challenges being attended to just now.

“Please hang on to your ideas and enthusiasm, as we do hope to be able to rearrange the conference when we can meet in person.

“In the meantime, over the summer we will be alerting you to, and encouraging contributions, to some great teaching and learning practices and ideas that you might find useful in planning for the new academic year.”

Differential attainment data is currently being shared with Schools to allow them to plan curricula developments to better support students from all backgrounds to achieve their best.