



Teaching for Learning Network

Domain-Specific Interviews

Department-based interviews with lecturers and supervisors

In addition to the semi-structured interviews held in CARET, interviews were also carried out with lecturers and supervisors in the Department of Plant Sciences by subject specialists. The purposes of these interviews were:

- To identify novel supervision practices, in order to populate the Plant Sciences' Supervisors CamTools Site
- To identify troublesome areas and potential threshold concepts, so extra online resources and support can be offered to those topics
- To generate ideas for lecture topic spanning workshops for students

A round of interviews was held at the end of each term, to cover the terms' teaching. Prior to interviews, a document was circulated outlining to the questions that the interview would serve to answer; these are shown below; these questions then formed the basis for prompting discussion during the interviews themselves. Each interview usually took between 20 and 45 minutes.

Questions for lecturers

- Do you know of any frequently asked questions associated with your course?
- Are there any good multimedia resources associated with your topic?
- Could you highlight some scientific keywords that are introduced in your lectures?
- Are there any review/research papers in addition to those recommended in lecture handouts that would be valuable for students and supervisors?
- Are there any essay questions associated with your subject that students commonly misunderstand?
- Do you have any ideas for workshops that could be run for larger numbers of students?
- Could any of the topics you teach be used as the subject for a debate?
- Would any of your lecture topics be amenable for display in poster form?



Questions for supervisors

- What activities have you carried out in supervisions that were particularly effective? Which topics were these associated with?
- Which multimedia resources would you recommend for student use?
- Have you set any essay questions that students found particularly challenging?
- Which questions were frequently asked in relation to the topics you supervised?
- Can you provide “real world” examples that relate to the lecture topics that you supervised?
- Could any of the topics covered in supervisions be used as the subject for a debate or a poster session? If so, which ones?
- Can you recommend any good review/support papers in addition to those given in lectures?
- Have you made use of the supervisors support material in the Part IB PMS CamCommunity?

In addition to and in light of the supervisor interviews, in order to facilitate population of online resources for students in the wiki tool on CamTools, subject specialists then mapped out key themes from interviews and lecture notes for each lecture module against the following model:

- Links to other parts of the IB PMS course
- Potential learning objects
- Important molecules
- Glossary words
- Useful pictures
- Key organisms
- References
- Websites and existing multimedia resources