



Teaching for Learning Network

Expectations of Participants

This document sets out what the project team and the participants in TfLN departments can expect from each other.

Working together

The project aims to generate and share theoretical and practical knowledge about pedagogical practices and the institutional conditions that promote their use in support of students' learning. In order to maximise opportunities for developing high quality, leading-edge professional know-how, the TfLN departments and CARET will need to collaborate in creative and dependable ways.

This statement aims to specify ways we can work together to optimise learning opportunities through partnership. Of particular value will be the active involvement of all participants in such important aspects of the work as providing feedback on project progress, sharing professional insights on key issues and themes, and playing a critical role in generating, interpreting and validating project findings.

Benefits to departments from participation in the project

The main benefits from involvement in the project can be understood in terms of potential impact on capacity at student, supervisor and departmental level.

Potential benefits to students include:

- enhanced progress, attainment and improved commitment to learning
- improved support for students themselves in monitoring, regulating and evaluating their strengths, progress, strategies and attitudes to learning.

Potential benefits to staff include:

- development of current practice
- enhanced capacity to move forward self-critically and of helping students to learn
- improved awareness of internal and external networks, how these networks are currently used and how they might be utilised to enhance the scope and effectiveness of their teaching
- increased opportunities for developing collaboration with others as a way of sharing, learning about and evaluating effective practices in different contexts.



What does the project team expect from participants?

As a minimum the project team would expect participants to:

- engage with project ideas
- try some new practices
- share their experiences of innovations with other participants
- permit researchers to collect data through observations, interviews or questionnaires and measures of student achievement
- make a commitment to work with the project until the end of the academic year and to contribute to project development through constructive critical engagement
- appoint a co-ordinator to liaise with the project team
- attend regular meetings with the project team
- plan action and keep a log of significant events with a bearing on the project
- arrange professional development and / or dissemination activities within their department
- use, or permit the use of, research instruments developed by the project to analyse and evaluate the context, processes and outcomes of change efforts
- share ideas and experiences with the other TfLN departments through regular meetings, publications or via the CamTools website

More extensive involvement with project development and processes will be encouraged if supervisors and departments so wish. Benefits to both the TfLN departments and the project are likely to accrue from integrating the project with other initiatives. Similarly, participants may be interested in carrying out some further research on project themes, perhaps using project instruments.

In general, participants will be encouraged to engage in the research process wherever possible: by raising questions for research, carrying out research themselves, critiquing emerging findings and disseminating results.

What should departments expect from the project team?

- The project team will provide an initial programme of meetings to initiate the project and develop a research agenda.
- The project team will provide guidance and support in the planning, implementation and evaluation of a manageable repertoire of strategies for supporting the development of TfLN practices in departments and supervisions.
- The project team will also mediate feedback of results from analysis of data collected during the project so that the information can be used formatively by both the department and CARET.
- Individual and departmental participation will be acknowledged in any reports or publications produced by the project team and participants will be provided with copies of any project outputs for comment.