
Economics Network Activities Update

December 2011



Autumn 2011 Programme of GTA and New Lecturer Workshops

Supported by the Royal Economic Society and Scottish Economic Society

This autumn the Economics Network ran ten GTA workshops and one New Lecturer workshop, which combined trained over 220 individuals who began teaching economics in universities across the UK this term.

The workshops are designed to help to prepare graduate teaching assistants and new lecturers and to equip them with the necessary skills and motivation to become excellent teachers.



The Network received excellent feedback from this year's events; the attendees particularly appreciated the personal support and advice they were offered and the huge bank of resources available to them on the Economics Network's website.

Departmental Workshop Programme 2012

The Economics Network is once again organising departmental workshops, which will cover the period of January to June 2012.

In 2011, we successfully ran seven of these workshops and topics included: encouraging student engagement and attendance, the use of technology in teaching and assessment, classroom experiments and simulations, setting up and managing student placements, using peer assessment in teaching economics and encouraging student retention.

Please contact us if you are interested in running a workshop in your department (econ-network@bristol.ac.uk) and see our website for further information (<http://www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/events/workshops.htm>)

2011 Learning and Teaching Awards

The Economics Network has presented the following awards in recognition of outstanding teaching and innovation in economics education in 2011:

- Outstanding Teaching award: Steve Cook from Swansea University. Commendations were awarded to Caroline Joll from Cardiff University and 'the EC307 Development Economics team' (Oriana Bandiera, Greg Fischer, Michael Best and Tara Mitchell) from the LSE.
- Student Nominated award: David McCausland from the University of Aberdeen and Chris Jones from Aston University. Commendations were awarded to Neil Rickman from the University of

Surrey, Steven McIntosh from the University of Sheffield, Peter Sinclair from the University of Birmingham and Michael Walsh from Coventry University.

- eLearning award: John Gathergood from the University of Nottingham. Commendations were awarded to Richard Wiseman and Susan Noble from Mimas.

Lecturer Survey

We have now published the results of our 2011 lecturer survey, to which 145 lecturers from 57 UK universities contributed.

The survey found that in 2011, nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of respondents reported some change in teaching practice. The main reasons for this change were: development of student' skills and abilities, feedback from students, offering support to large numbers of students, suggestions from workshops and colleagues' suggestions.

The results also showed that the majority of lecturers received advice on teaching from colleagues, but 44.8% also engaged with the support offered by the Economics Network.

For the full report on the lecturer survey, please see:

http://www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/projects/lec_survey2011.pdf.

Student Survey

The Economics Network's biennial student survey is now available to complete online at:

<http://www.survey.bris.ac.uk/ltsn/students11-12>.

This survey provides useful feedback on the Economics Network's services, as well as an indication of how teaching of economics is changing across the country. Once the results have been analysed, confidential reports are sent to each participating department.

Economic Book Catalogue

We are currently in the process of updating and renewing the Economics Network's vast database of economics books, which is available on our website at: <http://www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/books/>.

This catalogue currently contains the details of over 7,000 economics books and is used by lecturers and students to develop reading lists.