Showcasing good practice across the University – Teaching Matters
Jon Turner (Institute for Academic Development)

TEACHING MATTERS

- Teaching Matters home
- Video highlights
- Teaching Matters blog
- Features
- Focus on a School
- Events
- Teaching and learning resources

Video highlights

Featured videos relating to teaching and learning.

Near Future Teaching Video #1: Foregrounding humans & too much tech

Near Future Teaching Video #2: Ways of learning & creativity

Teaching Matters blog

Flipped classroom - an evidence-b...

Expanding peer learning in Inform...

Design Agency: 100% employable...

Smile(y) and the whole student bo...

Focus on a school

Showcasing teaching and learning highlights in different Schools.

Current focus: Edinburgh Medical School: Biomedical Sciences

Events

We promote teaching and learning events for academic staff taking place at the University and other academic institutions.

Events happening this month

Teac... resou...

Inspire... highligh... useful n... informa...

Teaching Matters blog

Promoting, discussing and celebrating teaching at the University of Edinburgh

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

Home   About   Contributors   Videos   Browse by theme ⌄   Browse by School/Centre ⌄

14TH JUNE 2018

Flipped classrooms – an evidence-based reflection

13TH JUNE 2018

WAYS OF LEARNING

Near Future Teaching Video Post #2: Ways of Learning & Creativity

12TH JUNE 2018

Expanding Peer Learning in Informatics

7TH JUNE 2018

Design Agency: 100% Employable

6TH JUNE 2018

HUMANS

Near Future Teaching Video Post #1: Foregrounding Humans & Too Much Tech

5TH JUNE 2018

Smile(y) and the whole student body will smile with you

Teaching Matters

For videos, features, case studies and events visit: Teaching Matters at the University of Edinburgh

Subscribe

✉ Sign up to receive new articles and updates by email

Search the blog

Search ...

Contribute to Teaching Matters

If you'd like to write a post or contribute to Teaching Matters please contact teachingmatters@ed.ac.uk

Please refer to our Teaching Matters style and content guide.

Twitter

Tweets by @UoE_Teaching

Teaching Matters
@UoE_Teaching

Check out the first video blog post of our new mini-series on Near Future Teaching. Watch two short videos on the

Purpose and approach

- Launched in January 2016 to promote, discuss & celebrate teaching

- Supported by IAD, belongs to contributors & university

- Primary audience is University staff, aspiration to reach beyond that

- Focus on blogs, video & social media…

- All blogs are meta-tagged (School, theme, key words) with effective search function – very flexible

Blog highlights

- Approaches to Equality & Diversity in Higher Education Teaching (941)
- Good teaching – student and teacher perspectives from the Conservation Science course (938)
- Lecture Recording: What does research say about its effect on attendance? (657)
- Wikipedia in the Classroom: developing information literacy, online citizenship and digital research skills (578)
- The benefits of blogging for PhD students (448)

12TH DECEMBER 2016

Approaches to Equality and Diversity in Higher Education Teaching

Higher education in the UK is experienced differently by our diverse student cohorts. Our mature undergraduate students are significantly less likely to complete their degree than their younger counterparts; students with disclosed disabilities are less likely to receive upper degrees than those without; students from higher socio-economic classifications are more likely to receive upper degrees than those from lower classification; our white students are more likely to be in full-time work six months after qualifying than our black

Vicky Gunn (Glasgow School of Art) & Pauline Hanesworth (Advance HE)
"Approaches to Equality and Diversity in Higher Education Teaching"

see also:
"LiberatEd: challenging the academic establishment to become more diverse, more inclusive, and more critical of historically dominant narratives", April 2018
"Exploring how the University can promote inclusion, equality and diversity in the curriculum", April 2018
"Equal Bite: gender equality in higher education", April 2018

10TH JUNE 2016

Good teaching – student and teacher perspectives from the Conservation Science course

The Conservation Science course on the top of Cairngorm Mountain after discussing how to conserve Scotland's alpine ecosystem that is threatened by climate change.

Gergana Daskalova & Isla Myers-Smith (GeoSciences)
"Good teaching – student and teacher perspectives from the Conservation Science course"

see also:
"Coding Club: a positive peer-to-peer learning community", December 2016
"GeoScience Outreach: teaching science communication 'beyond the programme' and outside of the 'Ivory Tower'," February 2017

Karoline Nanfeldt (Psychology)
"Lecture Recording: What does research say about its effect on attendance?"

see also:
Links to Lecture Recording project website & newsletter; expect future PTAS reports

13TH JUNE 2017

Wikipedia in the Classroom: developing information literacy, online citizenship and digital research skills

With about 17 billion pageviews every month, it's safe to say that most of us have heard of Wikipedia and maybe even use it on a regular basis. Yet, negative perceptions about

Ewan McAndrew (Wikimedian in Residence at the University of Edinburgh)
"Wikipedia in the Classroom: developing information literacy, online citizenship and digital research skills"

see also:
"Wikipedia assignments – getting past the 'Penguin effect' and down to the brass tacks of sharing open knowledge", October 2017
"Teaching with Wikipedia", April 2016
Digital education and online and distance learning theme

25TH MAY 2017

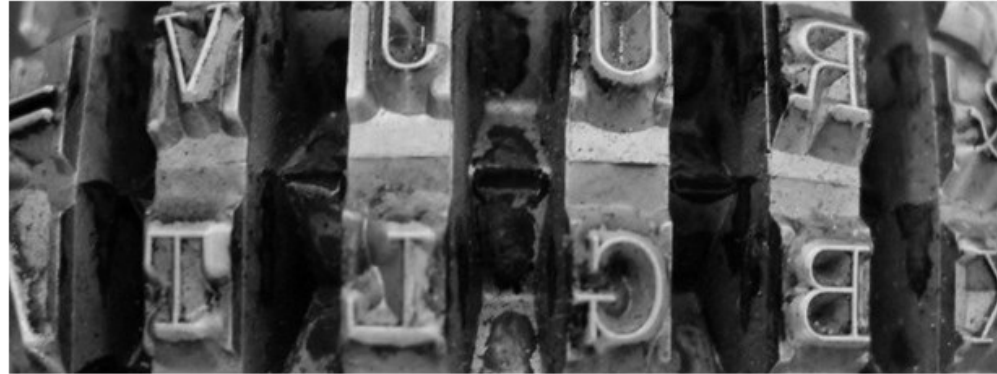## The benefits of blogging for PhD students

Photo by Noesis at Morguefile.com

If we were to start a game of word association with "writing" and "PhD", you'd probably come up with "thesis" pretty quickly, whilst perhaps not considering the more fluid and informal options presented by blogging. It may seem counterintuitive to add to the significant task of writing a thesis with more writing, particularly when the blogging style is so different, but I hope here to convince you of the benefits for PhD students.

Sara Shinton (IAD)
"The benefits of blogging for PhD students"

see also:
Search the blog: PhD
http://www.teaching-matters-blog.ed.ac.uk/?s=PhD

Time Well Spent: Reflections on undertaking the EdTA

As academics, we all know the feeling when we're asked to take on something else that will compete for our time. We also know how easy it is for things to fall towards, or even off, the bottom of our to-do lists. So, why did I choose to take part in the Edinburgh Teaching Award (EdTA), and was it worth it? (Spoiler: Yes.)

How our experienced academics develop as teachers

Recently I've been enjoying interviewing some of our experienced academics about how they have developed as teachers across their careers. I spoke with colleagues from all three Colleges about what it has been like to grow as a teacher before the recent upsurge in formal continuing professional development for teaching in higher education. All of these academics were passionate about teaching and put lots of time and energy into creating great learning experiences for our students. An emphasis on encouraging deep, critically reflective learning came through strongly:

Reflections on formal and informal approaches to Continuing Professional Development for Teaching Staff
Ben Goddard, Mathematics; Velda McCune, IAD

17TH NOVEMBER 2017

Developing Reflection in the Curriculum

iStock [fanjianhua]

Encouraging reflection on learning is becoming increasingly central to the experience of all students within the University. Nursing is recognised as having facilitated this approach to learning within the curriculum for a number of years. There are a variety of approaches and opportunities for reflection within the curriculum, yet students do find it challenging to move from describing accounts of their experiences; to be more critically reflective of the experience and the contribution to their future learning.

"Developing Reflection in the Curriculum"
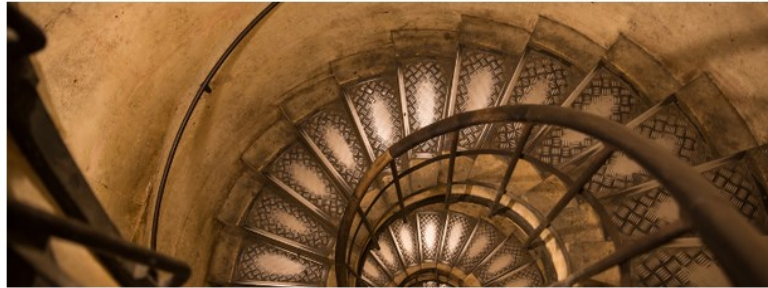Elaine Haycock-Stuart, Health in Social Science

History for the future: the new pre-honours curriculum in History

In summer 2016, the History Subject Area embarked on the largest overhaul of its curriculum in a generation. Driven by a variety of factors, including growing student numbers, changing student expectations, the renewed emphasis on teaching excellence throughout the sector, our Teaching Programme Review and external examiners' comments, we wanted to provide a curriculum that is sustainable and speaks to the challenges of the 21st century.

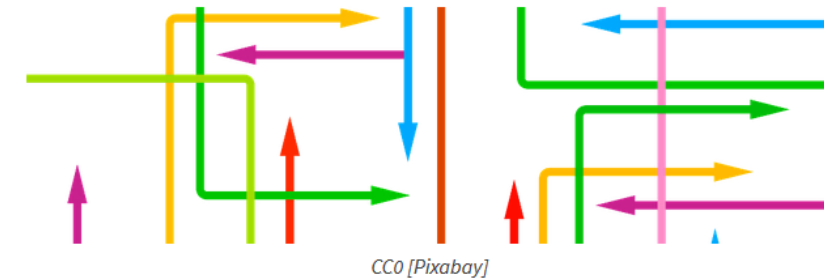## History for the future: Update on the new pre-honours curriculum in History

iStock [michellegibson]

In a post from November 2016, Dr Esther Mijers told Teaching Matters about how reforms to the pre-honours curriculum in History, including the implementation of a new training course for first-year students, *The Historians' Toolkit,* constituted the most important innovation in teaching in the department since the creation of the School of History, Classics and Archaeology over a decade ago. Here, Dr Mijers tells us how the reforms have progressed and developed.

'So your degree; what are you going to do with that? Do you want to become a teacher?': Employability in HCA
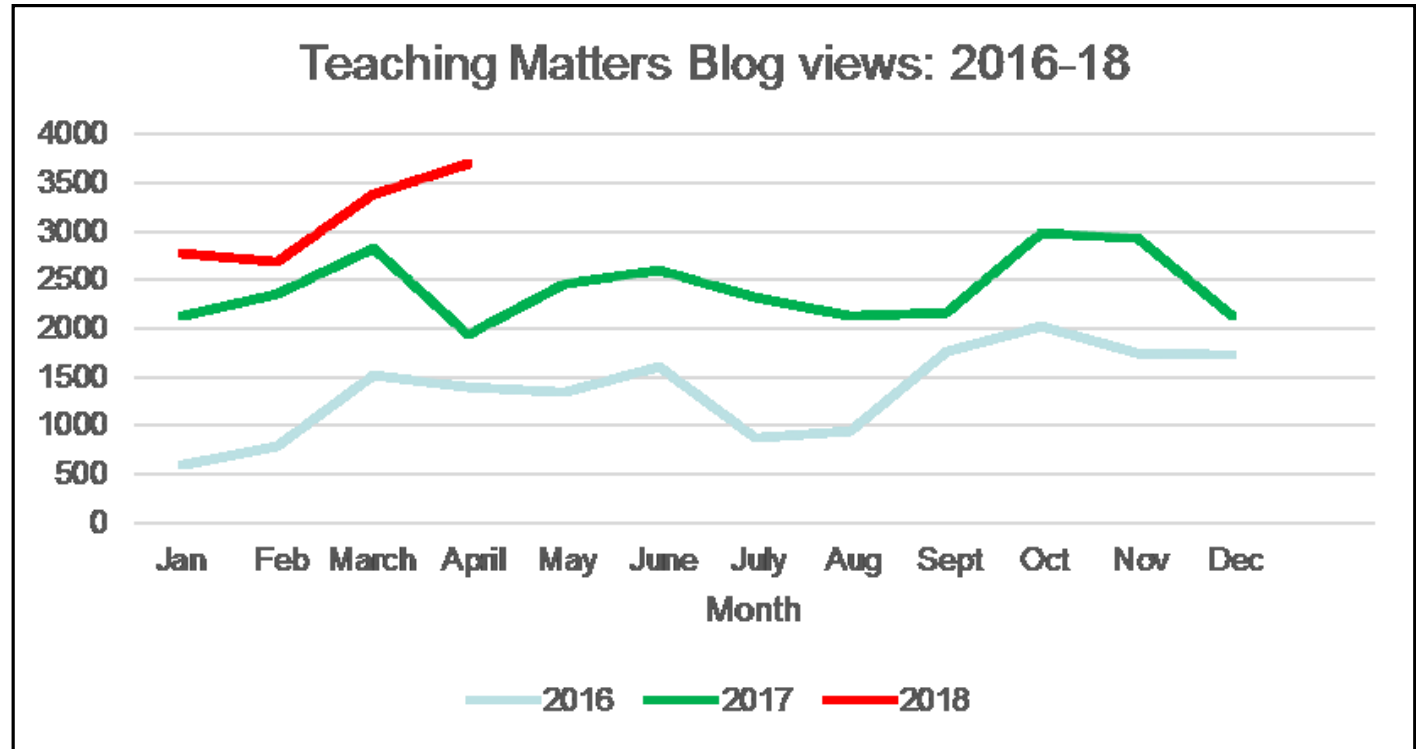

CC0 [Pixabay]

For a number of years now, the School of History, Classics and Archaeology (HCA) has been working closely with the Careers Service to help address the question every arts and humanities students faces at some point in their career: 'So your degree; what are you going to do with that? Do you want to become a teacher?'. We are keen to highlight the employability of our students, while at the same time addressing the graduate outcome challenge that we face: how to ensure our students fulfil their career potential. Our starting point was the reform of the History pre-honours curriculum, in which skills training and, by extension, raising awareness of the value of a degree in History, were a key aspect.

Curriculum development in action
Esther Mijers, History, Classics & Archaeology

Growth and impact

- >230 blogs since launch

- >160 contributors

- ~10 blogs each month (thematic and responsive)

- Steady growth in readership (3690 views in May 2018)

- Growth in social media followers and reach

Teaching Matters Blog views: 2016–18

Growth and impact

- Range and number of blogs
- Growing readership
- How it is being used (contributors)
  - Share and reflect on practice; highlight topic or practice; disseminate results; launch discussion; reach new audiences
- How it is being used (readers)
  - Learn from experience elsewhere; identify sources of advice/support; formal & informal CPD;

Growth and impact

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- How it is being used (readers)
  - Learn from experience elsewhere; identify sources of advice/support; to celebrate teaching locally; to highlight variety, innovation & quality across the institution; formal & informal CPD

Looking ahead – themes for next year

September: Student engagement in learning and teaching (mini-series: Lecture recording)

October: Interdisciplinary courses and programmes (mini-series: Lecture recording)

November: Student authors writing for Teaching Matters

December: Internationalisation

January: Co-created learning and teaching

February: Sustainability

March: PTAS (Principal's Teaching Award Scheme) outcomes & SoTL (Scholarship of Teaching & Learning)

April: Research-led teaching

May: Widening Participation

June: Celebrating a discipline – what makes it special?

July: Fieldwork and placements

Looking ahead – growing reach and impact

- Embedding the student voice
  - Student authors
  - Featuring TM blogs in student newsletters
- Growing audience & awareness
  - Promotion (eg conference & booklet)
  - Further integration with University web & communications
  - Further enhance social media presence
- Explore embedding of content in School web sites
- Grow use for staff development
  - Formal and informal
- Increase use and impact of video