

Observation of Academic Practice

Requirements

Students are required to complete and pass a formal Observation of Academic Practice. The student can choose which session is observed. It is recommended that the observation lasts no more than one hour so it might form part of a longer session. Students have three opportunities to be observed and it is recommended that if the first couple do not meet the full criteria then they should be used as opportunities for formative assessment. Being observed more than once will not affect student achievement on the module.

Scheduling

The student identifies a Faculty Trained Observer from the list provided in Canvas and contacts them to arrange a suitable date for observation. Where possible, it is also advisable that both agree a time to meet after the observed session so that achievement of the criteria can be discussed.

Pre-Session Information

The student will complete a Learning Plan, sending this to the observer in advance of the session. The plan will indicate the session structure and the student can ask the observer to provide specific feedback on particular areas of their of practice, if they wish to do so.

The Observation

Observers will use the Observation of Academic Practice Form to complete their feedback on the observed session. If agreed with the student, the observer may wish to provide some initial feedback at the end of the teaching session, but timetables and other issues may prevent this happening. It is recommended that observer and student meet within two weeks of the observation to discuss the feedback.

The Outcome

The outcome of the observation will be a holistic assessment of whether teaching across the session/topic is effective. This will be based on feedback associated with the characteristics of teaching as outlined on the form. The indicative evidence noted in the observation documentation is not exhaustive, but offered as a guide to the sorts of approaches that an observer might look for. The outcome of this process is a decision whether, on balance, practice is satisfactory.