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Brisbane Australia

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Iftikhar, Naima, Liu, Yulin, & Fox, Michelle
(2018)

Sessional Diaries: Recognising International Sessionals' Contributions - 'Let's celebrate you' (Issue 1).

Sessional Diaries, 1(1), August 2018.

[Article]

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SESSIONAL
DIARIES

ISSUE 1 **01** AUGUST 2018

WEEK 4

Teaching week, Semester 2, 2018

FEATURE 1

BUILDING STUDENTS'
CONFIDENCE IN FIRST YEAR

FEATURE 2

MY LEARNING & TEACHING
JOURNEY

FEATURE 3

CALL FOR INVITES TO THE
NEWSLETTER

RECOGNISING INTERNATIONAL SESSIONALS'

CONTRIBUTIONS

Let's celebrate you



• I S S U E •

01

HELLO



COLLEAGUES

With this newsletter, I would like to welcome you all to this platform that aims at recognising your contributions as a learning and teaching staff member at QUT.

In our own way, we all bring a change in the way our students learn and how we engage them. I believe the ultimate goal of our learning and teaching passion is to strive for the learner's success. The thoughtful pedagogical initiatives we take from a small to a large scale always have an impact on our students.

This newsletter, therefore, seeks to bring to the forefront, your learning and teaching success stories in the form of tried and tested practices, to celebrate and recognise all the effort that you do in your learning settings, to share, inspire and get inspired by the broader community of international sessionals. This initiative is proudly supported by the Learning and Teaching

Unit at QUT.

Warm regards,

Naima Iftikhar

International Sessional Academic Success Advisor

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"My experience of learning and teaching at QUT has provided me various opportunities to realise my potential as a sessional, to grow and develop my capacity as a passionate teacher and to align my teaching practice with my evolving teaching philosophy."

HOW I HELP MY STUDENTS BUILD CONFIDENCE

I tutor first-year architecture design students within the School of Design. Tutoring first-year students is both challenging and exciting. You have an incredible responsibility to inspire your students to success and enable them to transition smoothly in the university life by creating a community of learners with a strong sense of belonging.

In design studios, students have to present their work to a larger group of peers which can be a difficult experience for some students at the first-year level. So I aim to build their confidence and capacity to work in groups incrementally. I always guide them to work and present in smaller groups in earlier weeks - from presenting in a group of 4 to a group of 8 and then gradually by week 4 to a group of 16 or more students.

This prepares them for the time required to

- > build a rapport and relationship with the teacher and fellow learners,
- > get acquainted with the learning setting,
- > and also to understand the learning task and its

objectives.

This approach aligns with my teaching philosophy and involves constantly rethinking what the learning needs are of my students for a particular unit as a cohort, and weaving initiatives and approaches into my teaching practice to accommodate these needs.

Rethinking and innovating teaching and learning initiatives are introduced to sessionals within the academic development workshops offered by the Learning and Teaching Unit at QUT and are a catalyst for positive change among teachers who in turn have a positive impact on the students.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTOR:

Naima Iftikhar is a Sessional Academic in the School of Design, Creative Industries Faculty where she is passionate about engaging students in Architecture Design studio learning landscapes.

MY LEARNING & TEACHING JOURNEY AT QUT

Dr. Yulin Liu

I came to QUT in August 2008 to pursue a PhD in transportation engineering. I taught myself a lot about statistics for my PhD research. It was a rewarding but challenging journey for a PhD candidate under all sorts of pressure. Therefore, I have been very keen to share my experience with beginning learners of statistics and people planning to start a PhD.

After transport planning consulting business, I returned to universities as a sessional academic at QUT and UQ in 2014 to 2015, in various disciplines as a demonstrator, tutor, or lecturer.

I believe that statistics is an important skill set for a broad range of disciplines, and I deeply understand how challenging it can be for many students.

With an academic career ambition, I have engaged in a lot of opportunities offered at QUT to develop my teaching capacity. I completed the sessional academic development program – Foundations of Learning and Teaching – offered by QUT Learning and Teaching Unit in 2015. That program facilitated by Ms Michelle Fox really motivated me to seek excellence in everyday teaching at QUT where the quality of learning and teaching is highly valued.



"I believe small changes to our daily teaching can make a big difference."

Based on my expertise in introductory statistics education I was proudly recognised as an Associate Fellow of Higher Education Academy (HEA) at the end of 2015, becoming one of the first HEA fellows of QUT. In 2016 I was appointed as Assistant Learning Support

Coordinator in the maths stream of the STIMulate program.

I experimented using numerical simulation to teach sampling distribution in an introductory statistics class and presented my case study at The Ninth Australian Conference on Teaching Statistics.

I further initiated a research proposal with colleagues from Business School and we won a QUT Teaching and Learning Grant to conduct an experimental study in QUT's largest introductory statistics unit, BSB 123 Data Analysis.

Later in 2016, I was invited to present– "Go above and beyond: Passion, research, and effort in teaching a pivotal statistics topic" –

in STARS, - the major celebratory event to recognise and share good practices within the context of sessional teaching at QUT. I really like to share my experience and knowledge with peer sessional academics, particularly those with an international background. I have been proudly appointed as one of Sessional Academic Success (SAS) Advisors in 2017 and 2018 to support




international sessionals by building a community of supportive peers to seek excellence in learning and teaching at QUT. As the initiator, I email international sessional academics on a weekly basis to share information relevant to teaching at QUT. I brand it as "Timely, Short, and Useful Emails".

I believe that learning how to teach is like learning how to cook: understanding fancy recipes does not automatically make you a good cook; it requires an ongoing cycle of theory, practice, and reflection. Therefore, I like to promote this ongoing learning cycle among international sessional academics.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTOR:

Yulin is a SAS advisor supporting international sessional academics across QUT faculties. He obtained PhD degree with research in transportation engineering at QUT in 2013 and is currently a Maths Science IT Educator in Student Success Group and sessional lecturer teaching introductory statistics in School of Mathematical Sciences.



CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER'S LEARNING AND TEACHING STORIES

Do you have a successful learning and teaching story in your sessional diary to share with the international sessionals' community?

Do you want to take the opportunity to be featured in this fortnightly newsletter?

If yes, then we would like to invite you to contribute and showcase your submissions for this initiative within the International Sessional Academic Success Program.

QUT's hardworking sessional academics make a vital contribution to the learning and teaching experience of our valued students. Such teaching practices add to the accomplishments of our students' learning and bring success to our brilliant staff as well.

Most of QUT's international staff has also engaged with the diverse academic development opportunities offered by QUT.

If you would like to share your experience in the form of a learning and teaching success story (300 - 500 words) at QUT, please refer to the themes on the following page and contact

Naima Iftikhar on n.iftikharequt.edu.au.

SESSIONAL
DIARIES



NEWSLETTER STORIES' THEMES

01

MY DEDICATION TO QUT STUDENTS' SUCCESSFUL LEARNING

Innovative initiatives that are part of your teaching practice (face to face or online) that portray your dedication to the success of your students by making their learning environment better and providing them timely support through a sense of belonging.

02

HOW I ACHIEVED ACADEMIC RECOGNITION AT QUT (SUCH AS THE AFHEA, FHEA OR SHEA, IZN001, GCAP)

The multiple academic development pathways at QUT that had an impact on your teaching practice.

03

CONTINUOUS REFLECTION ON MY TEACHING PRACTICE WAS A BREAKTHROUGH

How self-reflection is woven in your teaching practice and philosophy and inspires you to be a better version of yourself for your learners and your own success

04

MY QUICK, SHORT AND EFFECTIVE TIPS FOR OTHERS TO SUCCEED AS A SESSIONAL AT QUT

As an International sessional how did your capacity and confidence grow enabling you to succeed? What teaching wisdom would you share with others.

05

MY JOURNEY TO RISE AND SHINE - PARTICIPATING AT QUT'S TEACHING AWARDS (STARS, VC'S PERFORMANCE AWARDS)

The hard work and dedication that you apply to your teaching at QUT is recognised and celebrated to inspire others.

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DIARIES