

Title: **Building a Continuing Relationship With PGCLTHE Alumni**

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Abstract:

Session Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- determine the benefits and opportunities for building a continuing relationship with PGCLTHE alumni
- consider the applicability of approaches adopted by other institutions to their own context

Session Outline

The purpose of this workshop is to explore the potential benefits and opportunities for building a continuing relationship with PGCLTHE alumni eg the sharing and publication of good and innovative case studies produce for the PGCert, support for UK PSF3 activities . It will provide an opportunity for participants to share current practice in their institutions and to consider the relevance to their own institution of findings from a survey of University of Portsmouth PGCLTHE participants' CPD plans for the next 1-2 years.

The Postgraduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (PGCLTHE) at the University of Portsmouth is primarily aimed at staff who are in their first three years' of teaching. Participants normally take 18 months to complete the course. During this time they have, amongst other things:

- had access to, and have contributed to a growing collection of online resources about learning and teaching, which can only be accessed via the course VLE
- shared problems, discussed ideas and plans for innovations, critically reflected on student feedback and ideas from the literature with a range of colleagues (other course participants) from across the institution both in face to face peer learning group meetings and in online discussions using the course VLE
- prepared case studies relating to the enhancement of their students' learning experience – some of which are of a very high standard and of interest to a wider audience.

Once the course ends, these facilities come to an end and the community breaks up. Maintaining a continuing relationship with PGCLTHE alumni might have a number of benefits, including ongoing, targeted support, the sharing of good and interesting practice with the broader HE community (within the department, faculty, institution, HEA Subject Centres and beyond) and growing participation in other academic service activities (Macfarlane 2007) such as mentoring and external examining. The continuing relationship might be both formal (through Masters in Learning and Teaching, taught Doctorates in Education and engagement with UK Professional Standard 3) and non-formal (eg networking through online discussions, action learning sets, book groups and academic writing groups.)

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

5mins - Short introductory presentation setting the context

10 mins - Small group discussions sharing current practice in own institutions concerning PGCLTHE alumni, including opportunities and perceived benefits of building a continuing relationship.

5 mins – Findings from University of Portsmouth survey of PGCLTHE participants’ CPD Plans for next 1-2 years. (Mainly handout to stimulate further group discussion)

15 mins – Small group discussions about relevance of these findings to own institution, potential benefits and approaches. Whole group feedback.

10 mins – Summary and details of next steps at University of Portsmouth

References

Macfalane B (2007) *The Academic Citizen – the virtue of service in university life* Abingdon: Routledge