

Session title: The Educational Developers Role in Collaborative Course Design

Session type: Lightening Talk

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Session summary:

This lightening talk introduces the Course Design Sprint process at NTU. We will share the function and aims of the course design approach, the challenges we have faced and how to implement Design Sprints in your own institution. The role of the Educational Developer within the sprint approach, alongside an exploration of how this can be used as an opportunity to share innovative and inclusive pedagogical approaches, whilst building a networked community of teaching practitioners.

Session outline:

Nottingham Trent University (NTU) is in its second year of designing courses through the innovative 'Design Sprint' approach. Last academic year, 56 course teams developed core aspects of learning, assessment and student experience within this structured and facilitated creative process.

Transforming NTU's course design from what was a documentation-heavy process, undertaken in isolation, and cumulating in a high-stakes panel-based scenario to a collaborative and sustainable model for course design, with protected time to share expertise and co-create courses with students, NTU experts, employers, professional bodies and academics from other institutions.

Using backward course design puts students at the centre of the process, with all 'Design Sprints' commencing with an examination of anticipated student personas, and consideration of who students will become after the course.

Through this cross-institutional approach to Design Sprints, Educational Developers lead course teams through the design process to create courses that are innovative and inclusive in their pedagogical approach. The process provides dedicated time for course teams to work on their design in collaboration with Educational Developers and other institutional experts. This allows the Educational Developers to build a community of practitioners, and networked colleagues across the University, to promote the initiatives and gain recognition and reward for the innovations that they create.

Successes so far include consistently engaged and enthused academics and professional service colleagues from across employability, quality and digital teams, which fosters a close and consistent consideration of the student journey, inclusion, personalisation and sustainability. The core design team now sit at the heart of the design process; empowering course team and students to collaboratively develop high-quality courses.

This lightening talk will sprint you through the Design Sprint process, the challenges we've faced and overcome, while demonstrating how Design Sprints can be implemented in your own institution.