

Title: **Making our Mark at Anglia Ruskin University: Evaluating the impact of an institutional initiative on transforming assessment**

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Session Learning Outcomes

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

- Consider how a higher education institution could effectively implement an university-wide initiative to transform assessment practice.
- Look at developing an approach to evaluate the value and impact of a university-wide initiative on enhancing assessment policy and practice.

Session Outline

The Making our Mark initiative (2012-13) has focused on enhancing assessment and feedback practices across Anglia Ruskin University, with Anglia Learning and Teaching working collaboratively with faculties, support services and external experts in the field to design and deliver a range of activities. The Higher Education Academy's framework, A Marked Improvement (HEA, 2012) was used in an early phase of the initiative to identify priority areas for enhancing assessment. Subsequent phases involved a range of activities and interventions, including workshops, faculty days, Assessment Design Consultancies for course leaders and their teams, and an Assessment Fiesta. The findings of the evaluation have informed the planning of phase three of the initiative and pointed to continuing to work on developing staff and students' assessment literacy.

Key areas to be addressed are:

- How the evaluation methodology drew on a range of sources of evidence to assess the value and impact of the initiative.
- The themes that emerged through the evaluation process, in particular, the significance of enhancing assessment and feedback practices at the course (programme) level and developing course coherence, a shift in staff awareness and understanding about the importance of enhancing assessment and feedback practices, and more variety and innovation in assessment.

- The issues relating to the effectiveness of specific activities or interventions, including whether an event is mandatory in terms of staff attendance, the value of such opportunities with regard to demonstrating (showcasing) practice, and the relevance of the activity in terms of the subject, disciplinary or professional context.
- The primary features of an effective approach in transforming assessment strategy within an institution.

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

The outline of the workshop is as follows;

- Overview of the Making our Mark initiative
 - Key drivers, features of the approach, phases
- Evaluation process
 - Aims, methodology devised
- Assessing value, impact and effectiveness
 - Findings in terms of themes and outcomes
 - Levels of impact: raised awareness and changed practice
- Discussion, with indicative questions
 - What kinds of lessons have other institutions learned from developing such university-wide initiatives?
 - What are the key factors that contribute to the success of initiatives focusing on enhancing assessment practice in terms of impact (e.g. changed practice)?
 - Through the evaluation, we identified that the initiative had wider implications in enhancing teaching quality (e.g. introducing team-based learning); have you found this in similar initiatives at your institution?

References

The Higher Education Academy (2012) A Marked Improvement: Transforming Assessment in Higher Education. Available at: <https://www.heacademy.ac.uk/resource/marked-improvement> (Accessed 4 November 2015).