Assessment Literacy and Academic Standards in Geography

Date and duration

Tuesday 27 August 2019, 12.30pm-5.30pm

This workshop takes place on the day before the RGS-IBG Annual International Conference 2019. Workshop participants do not need to be registered for the conference in order to attend the workshop, though conference participants are welcome.

Facilitators

Dr Jennifer Hill (UWE, Bristol: Academic Consultant on the Degree Standards Project), Professor Helen Walkington (Oxford Brookes University), Dr Stephanie Wyse (RGS-IBG, Professional and Policy Manager)

Workshop aims and content

This half day workshop aims to develop participants’ understanding of assessment and feedback literacy, the nature of academic standards and the role of professional judgment in assuring standards within the discipline. The workshop adopts an active learning approach, with an emphasis on building understanding through valuing participants’ experiences and prior knowledge. The facilitators encourage active participation through a variety of activities, enabling the sharing of good practice. The workshop will cover the purposes of assessment, assessment reliability and validity, principles of effective assessment and feedback, and moderation and calibration with reference to key benchmarks for academic standards.

Intended audience

The workshop is aimed at UK academic staff with responsibility for leading programmes, and who are aspiring or new external examiners in the subject. It will be relevant to those staff looking to step up their leadership responsibilities by providing a strong scholarly foundation of assessment and feedback literacy and standards.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Appreciate the nature of academic standards in higher education and the need to assure standards in geography;
- Recognise that there is variation in judgement of academic standards across geography assessors;
- Articulate the value of ongoing calibration activities as a promising method to achieve comparability of standards within the subject community;
- Identify key principles of effective assessment and feedback design to support students to achieve good degree outcomes whilst safeguarding academic standards;
- Apply these key principles confidently in the context of their own assessment design and delivery;
- Recognise the importance of continuing professional development in assessment and feedback literacy.
**Preliminary workshop schedule** (timings within workshop tbc)

Lunch; meet the facilitators and other participants

Welcome and introductions

Context: assessment and feedback, the nature of academic standards, why we need to assure standards in geography

Designing assessment and feedback to enable students to achieve high academic standards

Ensuring assessment supports student learning: Gibbs and Simpson checklist

Refreshment break and mingle

Developing student assessment and feedback literacy

Assessing student performance – causes of variability in judging standards

Assuring standards - calibrating academic standards in geography

Conclusions and Q&A

Networking drinks reception (alongside Annual International Conference)