

Promoting Disability Equality in Learning and Teaching: the impact of the DDA 2005

Case Studies

Case Study One - Assessing the impact of an assessment strategy.

An academic department in your institution is reviewing its assessment strategy, and in its deliberations considers the many reasons for using peer assessment for both formative and summative assessment.

The current assessment strategy involves:

- two 1500 word essays (25% of overall mark);
- one seminar paper/presentation (10% of overall mark);
- one practical class journal (15% of overall mark);
- one end of year 3-hour examination, in which students must answer 3 essay questions and one set of multiple choice questions (50% of overall mark).

All of the above are currently graded by academic staff.

The proposal is that the above will be replaced by:

One 1500 word essay. (25% of overall mark.)

Students will prepare a draft in the first semester, following which they will be paired with another student, and each will read and provide feedback on the other's work. In the second semester, students will submit a final version of the essay, together with a report on how the feedback from the other student was used. The final essay will be marked by academic staff.

One group seminar presentation. (15% of overall mark)

Group (5 students, i.e. quarter of the total students for any tutorial grouping) select a question from a list of topics

Agree a division of the research work

Individually prepare and collectively collate results

Agree a format for presentation to larger group, and allocation of responsibilities for the presentation

The group preparing the work, rest of tutorial group listening to the presentation and the tutor each allocate one third of the mark for this piece of work.

Practical class journal. (10% of overall mark)

One end of year 3-hour examination (50% of overall mark).

Students must answer 3 essay questions and one set of multiple choice questions

Discussion.

Why might an impact assessment be necessary?

What additional information, input or data would you want in order to carry out a good impact assessment?

What preliminary views do you have about the likely outcome of such an impact assessment?

What steps could be taken to reduce or eliminate adverse effects on disabled students?

Case Study Two – Assessing the impact of the mode of delivery for a course.

You have been told that the institution can no longer support the delivery of your course in its current format, due to a funding crisis.

You have been asked to consider alternative means of delivery for your course, such as distance learning, electronic learning, part-time provision etc. Consider how you would conduct assessment of the impact of this decision on disabled students, as described in the previous session.

Discussion.

Why might an impact assessment be necessary?

What additional information, input or data would you want in order to carry out a good impact assessment?

What preliminary views do you have about the likely outcome of such an impact assessment?

What steps could be taken to reduce or eliminate adverse effects on disabled students?