



## **Aspire Secondment Fellowship Award Scheme 2007/2008 Research and Study Skills**

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### **Introduction**

- Increasing focus on academic rigour and graduate attributes
- Skills should be developed in early part of course of HE programme
- Skills include referencing, technical writing, time management and learning to learn
- Overall aim of project - to encourage students in development of useful, transferable skills to be used in various contexts to which they will be exposed throughout their academic and employment careers.

### **Schedule and indicative programme content**

- Autumn term (07) delivery on alternate weeks in sessions of two hours duration
- Time allowed for consolidation of previous sessions and extra / review sessions if required
- Variety of delivery methods used - deep learning encouraged
- Student participation e.g. practice abstract writing, presentations, peer observation, file organisation and referencing
- Reflection actively encouraged
- Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) formed key resource - discussion forums, fact sheets and session activities
- Printed resource file in library
- Content covered the following areas:
  - Are you ready? - introduction to HE learning
  - Are you a Time Lord? - time management and organisation
  - PC Savvy? - using a computer for study, the internet and Plymouth University portal
  - Who do you believe? - critical thinking and abstract writing
  - Good writing - structuring assignments and understanding assessment criteria
  - The art of revision - exam preparation and revision aids
- Sessions linked to existing Professional Development module.

### **Evaluation**

- Informal discussions with students and staff
- Questionnaires to students - awaiting collation of results
- Generally good feedback, though delivery needs revision
- More than six sessions requested by students
- Coherency between staff required.

### **Development**

- Assessment of specific requirements of individual cohorts, as well as staff
- Staff development sessions delivered in conjunction with *Aspire* practitioners from Harper Adams
- Sharing of good practice
- Incorporation of revisions / development into 08-09 scheme of work.

### **Conclusion**

- Programme content proved useful to students
- Need more timetabled sessions and coherency between staff.