# Tutors@UQ Session 2 Plan

## 2.1 How do we manage tutorials for learning? 20 min

- Consider proactive strategies for managing tutorials
- Discuss ways to deal with difficult situations in tutorials
- Learn that the University has a statement of expectations for student behaviour as well as policies and procedures for dealing with student misconduct

Activity 1: Case studies: managing tutorials. Behaviour management

## 2.2 How do we know if our students are learning? 70 min

- Discuss the role of assessment and feedback in learning
- Apply a criteria marking sheet to determine a student grade
- Recognise the role of criterion referenced marking
- Recognise the need for moderation of grades
- Compare and contrast features of effective and ineffective feedback
- Identify possible complexities of student marking and discuss solutions
- Identify the UQ policy on remarking
- Recognise the UQ approach to academic integrity
- Identify appropriate tutor responses to instances of student plagiarism

Activity 2: How will you know whether your students are learning?
Activity 3: How will you help your students improve their learning?
Activity 4: Why is feedback rated poorly?
Activity 5: Marking, criteria and standards, and moderation
Activity 6: What makes feedback effective for students?
Activity 7: Feedback for learning.
Activity 8: Case studies: challenges with marking.
Activity 9: Academic integrity: the tutor’s role
Assessment roles and responsibilities

## 2.3 How is my tutoring evaluated? 5 min

- Consider the importance of getting feedback on your tutoring
- Identify the UQ evaluation of tutoring, the SETutor.

Student Evaluation of Tutoring

## 2.4 What else do I need to know before I start tutoring? 10 min

- Identify future professional learning opportunities
- Tutorial planning

Where to from here?

## Session wrap-up and reflection 10 min

Review
Question for reflection
2.1 How do we manage tutorials for learning?

Activity 1: Case studies: managing tutorials.

1. Paul is a good student; however, whenever you ask another class member a question he jumps in to answer it and then continues to dominate the conversation. You notice others are becoming annoyed with him dominating every discussion.

   What is the challenge?
   What strategies would you use to address it?
   1. 
   2. 
   3. 

2. Jules is midway through the semester when she finds once again that her students have not prepared the work she asked them to for the lesson. She is quite concerned, as this has happened every week for the last four weeks.

   What is the challenge?
   What strategies would you use to address it?
   1. 
   2. 
   3. 

3. A discussion in Jane’s tutorial is really going well, and she is finally feeling more confident, when one of the students asks her a relevant question that she does not know the answer to. Jane is worried that if she doesn’t give an answer her students will think that she is not a good tutor.

   What is the challenge?
   What strategies would you use to address it?
   1. 
   2. 
   3. 

4. Peter is leading a discussion about an important topic when one of the students relates it to an event that occurred during his previous holiday. It is not relevant to the class discussion and more and more students are turning towards him to join the discussion about his holiday.

   What is the challenge?
   What strategies would you use to address it?
   1. 
   2. 
   3. 

The fundamentals of classroom management are based upon the effective communication of goals and expectations, as well as a willingness to articulate and enforce behavioural standards.
2.2 How do we know if our students are learning?

There are three main ways of knowing whether students are learning:

- **Observation** Noting how students behave and talk about their learning, the questions they ask, the responses they provide
- **Consultation** Asking students to talk or write about their learning – individually or in groups
- **Focused Analysis** Setting students tasks and making judgments made about their responses with respect to predetermined criteria and standards

*Final grades are not the only way we know learning is happening. As a tutor you must be attuned to and actively solicit other indicators of student learning outcomes.*

Feedback

Course teaching cycle (adapted from Humphries & Jolly, 2003)
Activity 5

(The response for this activity was inspired by www.wordtravels.com and www.lonelyplanet.com)

Part 1: Mark the paragraph below. Assign a mark out of 10 to it and then justify your mark, explaining why you gave it the mark you did.

Brisbane city enjoys a lazy sub-tropical atmosphere happily accepting many tongue in cheek nick names including “Brisney-land” and “Brisvegas”. But Brisbane also has a serious side as a state capital and large and growing city. Brisbane has a strong arts scene centred around GOMA, the Queensland Art Gallery, Queensland Museum and QPAC all conveniently located together, where Brisbane’s residents and visitors have enjoyed world-class exhibitions, international performers and emerging (and returning) local talents. Shopaholics will be busy too (although prices are pretty high for the average tourist). The Gabba, Ballymore and Lang Park are Brisbane’s sporting homes where the Lions, Wallabies and Bronco’s respectively reside when Australia isn’t taking on the world. Exploring Brisbane’s heart on foot is easy enough particularly winter when the weather is more pleasant (in summer it’s hot, humid and at times, unbearable, so come in winter). The city makes the perfect base for daytrips further afield, although public transport can be unreliable at times.

/10
**Part 2:** Re-read the introductory paragraph and mark it again, this time using this criteria and standards sheet to guide you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Low standard 0 marks</th>
<th>Competent standard 1 mark</th>
<th>High standard 2 marks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coverage of key dimensions of appeal including art &amp; culture, sport, shopping, food</td>
<td>Focuses on very few dimensions</td>
<td>Covers a reasonable number of dimensions, but at least one obvious omission</td>
<td>Very comprehensive. Covers all key dimensions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explanation of local cultural terms</td>
<td>Frequent assumptions of local knowledge</td>
<td>Few assumptions of local knowledge</td>
<td>No assumptions of local knowledge. All local/cultural references are clearly explained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference to geographical location</td>
<td>No reference to geographical location</td>
<td>Some reference to geographical location</td>
<td>Very clear reference to geographical location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persuasiveness</td>
<td>Doesn’t make the destination sound appealing. Focuses only on negative aspects</td>
<td>Makes the destination sound reasonably appealing but draws attention to some negative aspects</td>
<td>Makes the destination sound extremely appealing and focuses only on positive aspects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readability</td>
<td>Poor grammar and sentence construction with a number of spelling errors</td>
<td>Reasonably well written. Few grammatical errors and very few spelling errors</td>
<td>Very well written. Excellent grammar and sentence construction with no spelling errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Mark</td>
<td>/10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*If you have marked to criteria and standards and moderated your marking, you should feel confident about your marking.*
Activity 7 Feedback for Learning

Here are two examples of feedback on this student’s work. What does the feedback tell the student? Could the student use the feedback to improve?

Some good points, but your writing is well below par! If I was to base my decision to visit Brisbane on the way this paragraph is presented, I would be unlikely to ever see the city!

The information is quite comprehensive and “sells” Brisbane well. The tone or pitch is also well-suited to the task. However, you need to take more care with your sentence structure, grammar and spelling and make sure that you don’t use local terms that an international audience won’t understand. As a piece of advertising, attention to detail is important and it is this aspect that you need to work on.

Framing written feedback

**DO**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address the work, not the person</th>
<th>Your essay (oral presentation, role-play, lab report)…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Begin positively</td>
<td>Shows an awareness of the range of resources… however…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use encouraging expressions (or refer to desirable outcomes)</td>
<td>would be strengthened … would convince your readers more effectively…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use passive voice</td>
<td>It is generally considered most effective…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offer explicit suggestions for improvement</td>
<td>Select material from authoritative sources, such as peer-reviewed journals… Consider integrating these ideas…</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DON’T USE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unfocused comments</th>
<th>Confused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Generally sound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adequate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dismissive, sarcastic comments</td>
<td>Most of this is straight out of the book!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments that shift responsibility elsewhere (referrals to specific resources, such as Student Services, can be helpful)</td>
<td>Get help with your English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments sending ambiguous messages</td>
<td>Text is based on only a few readings and not on your own thinking.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Chamberlain, Dison & Button, 1998)

**Summary Point:** Written feedback must be carefully crafted.
**Activity 8 Case studies: challenges with marking**

1. Peter has thirty students in his tutorial and needs to return the students’ results at the next tutorial, which is today. He likes to give a lot of feedback for each paper, but he realises now that he does not have enough time to complete marking all of the papers.

   **What is the challenge?**
   **How would you manage this?**
   1. 
   2. 
   3.

2. Jayson has marked all his allotted assignments according to the criteria and standards sheet provided by the course coordinator. When he mentions his spread of marks to another tutor who is marking in the same course, he realises that his marks are significantly lower than those awarded by the other tutor.

   **What is the challenge?**
   **What strategies would you use to address it?**
   1. 
   2. 
   3.

3. Sue has marked the assessments according to the criteria and returned them to the class. Simon approaches her after the tutorial and is quite angry. He believes she has not marked it correctly. Even though she explained the criteria and how his responses did not meet those criteria, he becomes aggressive and insists he receives a remark.

   **What is the challenge?**
   **What strategies would you use to address it?**
   1. 
   2. 
   3.

*Tutors play an important role in explaining academic expectations and in cultivating with their students a climate of mutual respect for original work.*
Assessment Roles & Responsibilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Coordinator</th>
<th>Tutor</th>
<th>Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop and articulate course learning objectives</td>
<td>Co-facilitate development of intended learning objectives (e.g. provision of feedback).</td>
<td>Engage in appropriate learning behaviours and provide evidence of achievement of learning objectives as assessment responses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design course assessment plan and individual assessment tasks and coordinate implementation</td>
<td>Help ensure summative assessment judgements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determine and take responsibility for remarking, plagiarism, collusion and cheating.</td>
<td>Report suspected misconduct to course coordinators</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is important to understand your role and responsibilities as a tutor in the processes of assessment.

2.4 What else do I need to know before I start tutoring?

Online Resources for Tutors@UQ


The Teaching and Educational Development Institute (TEDI) Website: [http://www.tedi.uq.edu.au/](http://www.tedi.uq.edu.au/)