



First Year in Maths Project

a joint project by the University of Melbourne, University of Adelaide, University of Sydney and Curtin University.

<http://fyimaths.org.au>



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Project Update The project will officially finish in January 2015, but the work of the FYiMaths network will continue with plans for further events in 2015. The project team would like to thank all those who participated with such enthusiasm and goodwill in this project by participating in interviews, presenting at and attending events, sharing your expertise and insights. The FYiMaths network has over 50 listed members and 130 contacts in mathematics at every university in Australia (and some in New Zealand).

We are currently completing the final project report and developing a publication profiling the role of First Year Coordinators. The project has been successful in identifying and drawing attention to the many issues and challenges facing tertiary mathematics educators. The project has established valuable relationships with mathematics and science educators across Australia and key mathematics, science and education bodies, such as the Chief Scientists Office, AustMS, AMSI, ACDS and AAMT.

The campaign to address the problems caused by assumed knowledge entry requirements is progressing with interest from the Australian Council of Deans of Science.

Network to continue It has been great to see the continuing growth in the community of undergraduate mathematics educators in Australia. At this year's ACSME there were significantly more mathematics presentations than in past years. At this year's ACSME Discipline Day we pledged to find ways to continue our network, and are currently looking for avenues of financial support. We hope to be able to continue to maintain a lively website and hold an annual workshop. We also plan to encourage state based network nodes which will provide more frequent opportunities for meeting.

The upcoming **AustNZ Mathematics Convention (8-12 December 2015)** has also had a huge increase in abstract submissions. In response to the call for papers for the [Mathematics Education special session](#) (organised by Deb King and Bill Barton) we have received over 30 abstracts. We encourage you to attend the mathematics education sessions (dates to be confirmed) which will cover a wide range of education practices, research and ideas. The program is currently being developed and will be available soon.

International Collaborative Writing Groups 2015 As part of the [ISSOTL 2015 Conference](#) hosted in Melbourne Australia, colleagues are invited to apply to participate in a year-long international collaborative writing group.

There will be eight groups, each of which will prepare and write an article during 2015-16 on a pre-selected topic about SOTL (the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning) for submission for publication. Each group will have seven members chaired by a facilitator familiar with the chosen topic. Ideally each group will include one student member.

The groups will work at a distance to prepare a 2000 word outline for online discussion running up to an ISSoTL pre-Conference workshop. They will meet in Melbourne for the two and half days preceding the start of the main conference (Sunday, Monday and Tuesday 25-27 October 2015) during which they will spend time preparing their draft paper within their group and in discussion with participants of other groups. Following the workshop the groups will have five to six months to complete and send in their papers for submission to the Society's international SOTL journal, [Teaching and Learning Inquiry](#).

What are the topics of the 2015 international collaborative writing groups?

Scholarship of student employability - Scholarship of work and practice-based learning - Scholarship of inclusive teaching and learning - Scholarship of assessment in the digital age - Scholarship of the flipped classroom - Scholarship of the student learning process - Scholarship of supporting new academics in teaching and learning - Scholarship of researcher development.

How can I find out more and sign up?

Go to <http://issotl2015.com.au/ICWG2015.html> for all information. The 2015 International Collaborative Writing Group initiative is being coordinated by [Kelly Matthews](#) (Australia) and [Mick Healey](#) (UK). Any questions can be emailed to Kelly Matthews at k.matthews1@uq.edu.au. Interested participants submit an online application form no later than 13 March 2015 at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ICWG_apply

Students (undergraduate or postgraduate) are encouraged to apply. ICWG Workshop fees for selected students will be waived with some travel bursaries available to support international and interstate student participation.

Help us spread the word We would be most appreciative if readers could forward this invitation to colleagues and to appropriate students who may be interested in participating in a collaborative writing group.

Conferences We now have a [page on our website](#) with upcoming conferences and seminars relating to tertiary mathematics education, higher education teaching and mathematics generally.

- [Mathematics Education Special Session, Australia and New Zealand Maths Convention](#). 8-12 December, 2014, University of Melbourne.

The 8th Australia and New Zealand Maths Convention is a combined meeting of the AustMS and NZMS held every six years. Deb King (University of Melbourne) and Bill Barton (University of Auckland) are organising a special session on tertiary mathematics education and submissions of abstracts for presentations are welcome. We have received over 30 abstracts, with one session planned for Wednesday 10th December, a further session on another day is now likely.

- [STARS - Students, Transitions, Achievement, Retention and Success](#). 1-4 July 2015, Melbourne.

The First Year in Higher Education conference has been reborn as the STARS Conference, with the focus now on all year levels in supporting students' transition to university and throughout their degree. The conference provides a forum for academics from all disciplines, managers, professional staff and senior management to consider the breadth and depth of learning and teaching and student support issues. There are a range of presentation formats.

- [HERDSA 6-9 July 2015](#), Melbourne.

HERDSA offers an annual international conference on topical teaching and learning issues with opportunities to meet colleagues with similar interests, exchange ideas about teaching and learning and learn about current developments from experienced researchers and practitioners. The major themes for 2015 are *How best to integrate learning more seamlessly with life and work* and *How to enhance opportunities offered for learning using digital technologies, both on-site and online*.

- [International Conference, Assessment for Learning in Higher Education](#), 14-15 May 2015, Hong Kong.

Assessment for learning has attracted the interest of higher education institutions worldwide. Hosted by the Centre for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL) at HKU, the programme of the upcoming event is carefully designed to incorporate a wide range of topics that reflect the conference theme of 'Assessment for Learning', including, innovative assessment approaches, students' responses to assessment, assessment and feedback, institutional initiatives in assessment and assessing professional competencies.

- [First International Conference on Creative Mathematical Sciences Communication](#). 9-12 December, Chennai, India. This conference is organised by Frances.Rosamond@cdu.edu.au , Charles Darwin University, where the inaugural conference was held.
- [International Conference on Education in Science, Mathematics and Technology](#), 23-26 April, 2015, Antalya, Turkey.

The aim of the conference is to bring together scholars, students, and administrators from different countries, and to discuss theoretical and practical issues in the fields of information and communication technologies in education, science education and mathematics education. The conference will be organized in partnership with the International Journal of Education in Mathematics, Science, and Technology (IJEMST). The call for papers is now open.

- [12th annual conference of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning](#), 27-30 October 2015, Melbourne.

The conference will be co-hosted by Monash University and RMIT University and held at RMIT University. This major international conference, you will have the opportunity to hear from, and interact with, scholars of teaching and learning from around the world. The conference theme, *Leading Learning and the Scholarship of Change*, will explore how teaching staff and students in universities can lead quality learning and teaching practice as we move inevitably towards more changes in higher education.

Collaboration We are happy to pass on information from network members seeking research collaborators. If there is a need for this type of assistance it could be developed as a function of the network. It could be facilitated through the website, via a members only page (login), via posts or email.

Bernardo Leon La Barra (University of Tasmania) would like to find out if anyone on the network is looking at integrated k-12 (or first year) stem education. Particularly programs, activities or units that seek to make visible and explicit the multiple connections between the different pillars of STEM. He [presented](#) some preliminary work on this at the recent STEM Education conference in Melbourne, Please contact by email: b.a.leondelabarra@ieee.org

Again many thanks for your support and enthusiasm.

The project's formal title is "Building leadership capacity in University first-year learning Support for this publication/activity has been provided by the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching. The views expressed in this publication/activity do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching.