

VOL. 1, ISSUE 2 | APRIL 2021

TE PUNA AKO'S NEWS

Updates on Learning and Teaching at Unitec



News and events

New Teacher Induction - July 2021

Monday 12th – Wednesday 14th July

Open to all lecturers, and tutorial assistants to attend
Contact us at tepunaako@unitec.ac.nz to self-enrol, or to enrol your new teaching staff.

Teaching Under 25 learners - this new badge is available at Mauri Oho (emerging level)
Evaluate your teaching practice for working with our Under 25 learners against good practice criteria

Work-Integrated Learning Conference (online)

29 - 30th April

The annual WILNZ conference is focused on Work-Integrated Learning and Cooperative Education.

Updating your e-portfolio event.

On-line from Australia. 27th April. See the story and link on page 3

AT A GLANCE

- New Teacher Induction
- A new badge - Teaching Under 25s
- Doing group assessment well
- Blended and Remote Learning
- Update your Portfolio

Te Puna Ako's News gives you a quick update of learning and teaching news, good practice at Unitec and practical ideas on how you can create better learning .

The TPA liaison for your school can be found on the Nest [here](#).

Assess the 'group' part of group assessments

An issue with group assessment is assessing the group part - how do we assess the contribution of an individual in a collective piece of evidence? Instead of simply giving all learners in a group the same mark, Peer Assess Pro is software that will make your group assessment marking fairer and improve student engagement. It empowers learners by involving them in evaluation.

At Unitec, Kristina Naden (Environmental and Animal Science lecturer) has been successfully using Peer Assess Pro in two of her level 5 courses; Animal Clinical Care and Intro to Vet Clinic Practice. Kristina (KN) shares some of her best practice in using this tool.

What elements of assessment are you trying to capture by using this software?

KN: How well students work in a team, if they follow through doing what they say they will do, their ability to communicate and work with people from different backgrounds etc. Teams for the Group Presentation are chosen by students, teams for Team Based Learning (TBL) are chosen at random.

What assessments do you use this software for?

KN: Group Presentation (40%), three people per team (student self-selection).

It's a bit trickier to be anonymous with the feedback as there are only 3 in a team so it's often obvious where comments have come from. But, I would hope that it would encourage them to participate actively in their team assessments, knowing it will influence their grade.

In my Team Based Learning (TBL) designed course, Peer Assess Pro is used for peer evaluation in the Team Assessment component of this course (25%) on the other team members (approx. 6-7 per team - random selection). The peer evaluation mark the students get from their peers makes up a component of their grade for these assessments. For this course there is a good amount of anonymity.

Number of students using it?

KN: approx. 100

How do you introduce the software to your students?

KN: I tell them that they will be emailed a link to click that will take them to a website to complete their peer evaluation. I tell them it will take around 5 minutes per person in their team.

What is the best part for you as the teacher, in using this software?

KN: It does it all for me 😊

Top tips for teachers considering using this software?

KN: Talk to Patrick Dodd! He's very helpful and will help you avoid too many dramas. Think about how the results will be used in your assessment - in terms of grades, and also how to inform improvements. The software also tells you who has or hasn't completed the assessments, and you can then send a reminder email to those students with a click of a button. There is also an option for students to provide feedback about the assessment to the lecturer, this has yielded some interesting responses, that have been used to improve assessment.

Peer Assess Pro has been designed and developed by Unitec's own, Patrick Dodd. It is available free of charge to all Unitec teachers. Peer Assess Pro is approved and endorsed by Ako Aotearoa as a good tool for peer evaluation. Please contact [Peer Assess Pro](#) directly via their website or connect with Patrick Dodd via email with your questions about utilising this tool to evaluate your group assessments.

Blended and Remote Learning

With recent short Covid shutdowns and the closure of Buildings 111-115 for asbestos testing and remediation, we have been reminded of the importance of continuing to be ready to quickly shift to remote teaching. Your [school liaison person](#) is ready to support you in this and we also have a range of resources available online for you. As well as our [Remote Teaching Support Moodle page](#) we now also have a Moodle dedicated to [Moving towards Blended & Online Learning](#). With the opening of our borders to trans-Tasman travel, our risks may increase slightly and it is a good idea to be ready with assessments that are suitable for remote learners where possible, as well as ensuring all teachers are familiar with the remote teaching possibilities available at Unitec.



Update your eportfolio

When was the last time you updated your teaching or discipline ePortfolio? Due to Covid, organisational change, and increased enrolments it is hard to set aside the time for this important part of our professional development. However, there is a new opportunity. EPortfolios Australia are offering 1.5-hour sessions loosely based around the Pomodoro method of writing.

These sessions will include discussions and sustained periods of eportfolio work. These will be combined with sharing and reflection time for attendees between writing (eportfolio) intensive work. If you have so much on that you just need to plan, you can do that. However, there will be no emails and no Facebook or Twitter and mindless web surfing. This is your time to do something for you and your career.

If you are advocating eportfolios for student use, then you should be an eportfolio practitioner. There is value in the personal experience in setting up your own eportfolio or eportfolios. ePortfolios can exist for a variety of audiences and purposes. You may have a website and a LinkedIn presence. Both are ePortfolios.

ePortfolios allow us to collect, select, and curate our best work. When we look at our eportfolio it provides an excellent base for our reflective practice. They are the foundation of the evidence we need for promotion, and awards. They are the step to the next role or position in education.

If you are interested, please check out the details [here](#).

<https://eportfoliosaustralia.wordpress.com/other-events/shut-up-and-eportfolio/>

