March 2012

Welcome
Welcome to the Maths, Stats and OR Newsletter from the Higher Education Academy (HEA). This newsletter contains information on activities and events which are going on in Maths, Stats and OR at the HEA and the funding opportunities which are on offer from the HEA. It also includes news from the HEA MSOR Network, at the University of Birmingham. You can subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter by going to http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/my_academy.

If you have comments or queries about the contents of this newsletter or any of the HEA’s activities in Maths, Stats and OR, please email Mary McAlinden (mary.mcalinden@heacademy.ac.uk).

For information about the HEA MSOR Network, the person to contact is Dagmar Waller (d.a.waller@bham.ac.uk).

HEA Workshops in Maths, Stats and OR

Improving the employability of OR graduates
Thursday 3 May 2012, University of Southampton

This workshop should be relevant to those involved in teaching courses in Operational Research (OR) and Management Science (MS) in higher education. The event will contain presentations from employers, a representative from the OR Society, PhD supervisors and an Industrial Liaison Officer. The presentations will be used to initiate and inform discussion about changes and developments which may be needed to current OR and MS courses in order to improve the employability of graduates. Areas of consideration will include the curriculum content and the learning, teaching and assessment methods which are currently used in courses in the subject. Further details of the event can be found at http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/detail/2012/academyevents/3-May-MSOR.
Aspects of teaching, learning and support in Mathematics and Statistics in Scottish Higher Education Institutions
Monday 16 April 2012, Edinburgh Napier University

This workshop will focus on the sharing of good practice in teaching and learning across Mathematics and Statistics. The event is being hosted by the Scottish Maths Support Network and will provide an opportunity to hear about their activities. Details of this event can be found at http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/detail/2012/academyevents/16-04-12-MSOR_in_Scottish_HEIs.

Diversifying practice in assessing the mathematical needs of undergraduate students
Wednesday 16 May 2012, Loughborough University

This workshop will focus on recent research and practice-based findings and consider how assessment methods can be diversified for the benefit of students. Areas which will be considered will include technology-enabled implementation of peer-assessment and self-assessment, empirical modelling of students’ argumentation schemes and designing innovative assessment tasks. More detailed information about this event can be found at http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/detail/2012/16_May_HEA_STEM_LBORO_Maths.

Other Events

HEA STEM Conference - Aiming for Excellence in STEM Learning and Teaching
12-13 April 2012, Imperial College London

Information about how to register and details of the full conference programme can be found at http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/detail/2012/academyevents/STEM_annual_conf.

Conference Student Competition
Students in STEM disciplines, including Maths, Stats and OR, are invited to submit a photograph or digital image which they think captures the essence and excitement of their area of study and which could motivate others to study in the same area. Submissions will be displayed at the HEA STEM Conference and the entries will be judged by delegates at the conference. The winner will be awarded a £250 book token and will be invited to receive their prize at the HEA Annual Conference dinner in July. Submissions should be emailed to Karen.Fraser@heacademy.ac.uk by 1 April 2012.

HEA Annual Conference - Great Expectations - are you ready?
3-4 July 2012, The University of Manchester

This year there are three main strands to the HEA Annual Conference. These are:
- student expectations and the learning experience;
- supporting staff to deliver student learning experiences of a lifetime;
- institutional adaptability.

The conference registration is currently open at http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/annual-conference.
HEA Funding Opportunities

**HEA workshop and seminar series**
The call for bids to host a workshop or seminar in Maths, Stats and OR is still open and can be accessed at [http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/funding#seminars](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/funding#seminars). Successful applicants will be awarded up to £1000 for hosting an event with additional funds of up to £500 to support speakers’ travel. If you have any queries about the application process, please contact Mary McAlinden ([mary.mcalinden@heacademy.ac.uk](mailto:mary.mcalinden@heacademy.ac.uk)).

**HEA teaching development grants**
The deadline for receipt of applications for collaborative teaching development grants of up to £60,000 is **22 April 2012**. The themes of this call are internationalisation and employability, and collaborations may be cross institutional and/or interdisciplinary. Full details of the application process can be found at [http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/funding#tdg](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/funding#tdg).

**HEA UK travel fund**
The call for bids to the HEA UK travel fund is still open. Funds are awarded to enable the exchange and dissemination of good practice in learning, teaching and assessment. Details of how to apply can be found at [http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/travel-fund](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/travel-fund).

**HEA research funding**
There is currently an invitation to tender for four new pieces of research. These are in the following areas.

- Behavioural approaches to understanding student choice
- Leading the student experience: academics and professional services in partnership
- Review of the HEA’s Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey
- Undertaking a literature review of impact studies on university teaching development programmes

The deadline for receipt of tenders is **5pm on 2 April 2012**. Further details can be found at [http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/funding#research](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/funding#research).

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**News from the HEA MSOR Network**

**Teaching introductory Mathematical Analysis workshop**
2 May 2012, London Mathematical Society

The HEA Maths, Stats & OR Network will be running a workshop from 10.30 to 4 pm at the London Mathematical Society on addressing the topic of “Teaching Introductory Mathematical Analysis”. During the day we will examine the historical context of Mathematical Analysis in the undergraduate curriculum, the peculiar issues that the teaching of Analysis present to the lecturer and the student, notable experiments that have been tried, the connection with ‘mathematical thinking’ and the question of the role of technology.

Further information is available at [www.mathstore.ac.uk/?q=node/2091](http://www.mathstore.ac.uk/?q=node/2091). To register please contact Dagmar Waller ([d.a.waller@bham.ac.uk](mailto:d.a.waller@bham.ac.uk)).
Mathematicians and Mathematics educators: assessing our students  
9 May 2012, University of Warwick

In 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2011 the MSOR Network organised workshops which brought together mathematicians and Mathematics educationalists to discuss Mathematics education. Continuing this theme, the Maths, Stats & OR Network, in conjunction with the Mathematics Institute at the University of Warwick, has organised a further full day workshop to discuss "Mathematicians and Mathematics Educators: assessing our students".

We hope to organise a lively and thought provoking day of seminars, both from research mathematicians and researchers in education. The audience will be colleagues from university Mathematics departments and Mathematics Education researchers who undertake research in learning and teaching at the university level.

Similarly, we would like to invite educationalists to provide a critique of current university teaching from the point of educational theory. What would they change and why? What contribution can those teaching undergraduate Mathematics contribute to educational research?

More information can be found at http://mathstore.ac.uk/?q=node/2093. To register please contact Dagmar Waller (d.a.waller@bham.ac.uk)

CETL-MSOR Conference 12-13 July 2012 – Last Call for Abstracts

The CETL-MSOR Conference 2012 is being held in partnership with the Higher Education Academy and will take place in the Halifax Conference Facility, University of Sheffield.

Abstracts of up to 500 words should be submitted by Sunday 1 April 2012. For more information about the Conference and how to submit an abstract please go to http://mathstore.ac.uk/conference2012.

Please note that the Early Bird Rate of £130.00 is available until 5 May 2012.

New Resources - Statstutor

The Statstutor site is now live at www.statstutor.ac.uk. This offers Statistics support materials, free of charge, to students, lecturers and everyone looking for post-16 Statistics help. It contains several types of resources including case study videos, video tutorials, teach yourself paper based resources, tests and quizzes as well as electronic versions of the very popular Facts and Formula leaflets distributed by the HEA MSOR Subject Centre.

Coming soon will be a selection of case studies, resource packs, links to key reports and research on Statistics support, and other valuable resources for staff who offer Statistics support.