



Events

Early Careers Teaching Symposium: in early April the Network ran a practice-based event at the LSE, designed to further develop some of the concepts and skills explored in the autumn workshops. The symposium was attended by 55 graduate teaching assistants and new lecturers from around the UK. Sessions were run on teaching quantitative and essay-based economics, course and module design, alternative uses of lecture time and there was a session on dynamic teaching styles facilitated by a former actor. Tim Harford, a patron of the Economics Network, gave the keynote address.

“I was really impressed with the quality of the workshop and the great atmosphere.”



Autumn workshops: EN ran a successful programme of GTA and New Lecturer workshops in 2013, both generic and department-specific (14 in total, attended by 280 participants). We are now planning the 2014 workshops and consulting with RES and SES about endorsement and accreditation of this training with a view to providing partial exemptions for attendees from institutional TLHE programmes.

“The symposium was exciting and gave me practical points to improve my teaching ability and presentation skills.”

Conferences: the Network had a stand at the recent Royal Economic Society conference at the University of Manchester in April. Alvin Birdi, Coordinator of the Network, presented in one of the special sessions on economics curriculum reform with Wendy Carlin and Diane Coyle. The Economics Network will also be contributing to the Scottish Economic Society's Conference in Perth, the Festival of Economics in Bristol and the Teaching Conference of the American Economic Association in Washington. The Network's biennial DEE conference is due to be held in Autumn 2015.



Research

Collaborative research project: a Network-led 2-year research project (involving 17 subscribing departments) into how economics students' expectations, attitudes and behaviours may have changed as a result of recent developments in HE. Focus groups were run earlier this year and the second (and final) round of student surveys is currently underway.

Embedding writing in the economics curriculum: the Network is currently seeking external funding to run a project in this area.

Key Information Sets: the Economics Network's collation of 2013 KIS data for economics has now been made available on the EN website. Subscribing departments were given priority access to this data.

The Network

Associates: the Network's Associates assist with the planning and running of workshops and teaching symposiums and provide general guidance on our service to the HE economics community. We held an annual meeting of associates in April to review the previous year and plan for the next.

Patrons: the Network's patrons continue to contribute to our events and publications. This year, in addition to giving the keynote address at the teaching symposium, Tim Harford will also give an interview for the next edition of the Economic Review. We also welcome our newest patron, Andy Ross, previously Deputy Director of the Government Economic Service and currently visiting professor at Leeds University.

Publications

International Review of Economics Education: the Network's journal is now published by Elsevier. A special edition of the journal, focusing on lecture capture and featuring a number of papers from our DEE conference, will be released soon.

Economic Review: from September 2014, the Economics Network will partner with the University of Southampton to run this magazine published by Phillip Allan and aimed at A-level students studying economics and those considering studying it at HE level. The new editorial board met in April to discuss the new partnership and to plan for the upcoming editions.



Discussion papers: the EN has launched an electronic discussion paper series on economics pedagogy. A small editorial board has been established and the first submissions are being reviewed.

Newsletters: the newsletter is published twice a year - it provides the economics community with information on events, recent publications and interesting developments in economics education (latest edition - 25 April). A monthly email newsletter also provides a more regular update for our subscribers.

Subscriptions

Subscribing departments: in 2013/2014, fifty three UK economics departments subscribed to the Economics Network. The cost of subscription is calculated according to the department's FTE staff numbers. In the coming months, we will be approaching departments again for subscriptions for the 2014/2015 academic year.

Supporters: the Network is also supported by the Royal Economic Society and the Scottish Economic Society.



Websites

EN website: the main website contains a wide range of resources including 27 handbook chapters covering all aspects of economics teaching and 170 case studies, all under 49 sub-categories for teaching. Collectively the EN websites receive around 3 million hits per year.

Student websites: the Network continues to maintain and develop these student-facing websites that promote the study of HE economics and support current economics students in their studies.

Further information on all Economics Network activities is available on our website:
www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk

Or alternatively, please contact us on: econ-network@bristol.ac.uk