

# Teaching literacy: preliminary outcomes of a PGCERT in teaching and learning in higher education on information literacy training

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# Postgraduate certificate in teaching and learning

- A year-long course open to anyone in the University of Cambridge who teaches/supports learning. (Other universities run similar courses for their teaching staff.)
- A mixture of theory (pedagogical/educational research) and practice (testing educational techniques in the classroom, peer observation and discussion).
- Aim is to produce a 10,000-word portfolio, and successful candidates receive a professional/academic qualification.
- I'm undertaking the course this year and am about halfway through.



# Why did I undertake the course?

- To supplement my practical experience and reflection with a solid grounding in theory.
- To develop as an educator (and gain a useful qualification).
- To ensure my teaching is evidence-based and grounded in current educational theory, and increase my awareness of trends and debates within educational research.
- To adapt and modify current teaching based on what I learnt through the course.

# Preliminary outcomes and changes

- Learning to let go: more student-directed learning.
- Flipping the classroom and facilitating students teaching each other.
- Greater awareness that 'one size fits all' will not work, and willingness to adapt on the go to suit different learning needs and experiences.
- Techniques for testing the efficacy of changes – and being prepared to drop things that no longer work.

# Any questions?

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