

Designing & Facilitating High Impact Blended Learning: An Evidence-Based Approach

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Introduction

Blended learning is an established part of the educational landscape and research suggests that not only is it more efficient and flexible but also more effective than either face to- face or fully online learning. It can take a number of forms with the Flipped Classroom format (e.g., Bergmann & Sams, 2012) now highly popularized in the literature. However, while becoming widely used, recent reviews of research on flipped classroom learning (e.g., Abeysekera & Dwason, 2015) have concluded that it remains largely underevaluated, under-theorized, and under-researched. In most basic terms there is a significant gap between validated knowledge from cognitive science and application in practice, resulting in a lack of a sound pedagogic models underpinning flipped classroom teaching – which applies to blended and online learning in general.

The workshop fully addresses this gap, providing a comprehensive evidence-based pedagogic and professional development framework for implementing blended learning, irrespective of the format used (e.g., flipped classroom) at any level of implementation (e.g., lesson, module, course and institution). The framework is based on the most validated knowledge on how humans learn and what methods work best. It has been extensively implemented and evaluated over a four-year period; the key components captured in the book *Creative Teaching: An Evidence-Based Approach*, Springer, 2015 by the workshop trainer. It was also recently presented as a symposium at the Redesigning Pedagogy International Conference in Singapore (May 31-June 2, 2017).

The program will empower participants to:

- Understand the concept, rationale, and usefulness of Evidence-Based Practice as an essential Pedagogic Literacy
- Explain how the strategic use of highly effective methods and cognitive scientific principles can significantly enhance the student learning experience and attainment opportunities
- Identify and combine e-tools that enhance different aspects of the learning process
- Design high impact learning experiences that can be used in all blended formats (e.g., flipped classroom) for any learning event (e.g., lesson, module)
- Facilitate blended learning to ensure effective online presence and learning connectedness
- Evaluate blended learning from an Evidence-Based Approach
- Conduct professional development for enhancing expertise in blended learning at institutional level