A multifaceted approach to numeracy support for life sciences students

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The issues

- Academic
- Professional
In place already

- Academic Tutorial Service – numeracy session
- Level 4 laboratory sessions requiring calculations
- Some numeracy support within modules
Solutions

• Interactive multimedia
• Face-to-face support
Local interactive multimedia
Drop-in Sessions

- Piloted October 2011
- Open to all
- Fixed running period
- Volunteer members of staff
- Informal approach
- Session format
Worried about mathematics?

There will be two optional drop-in sessions on:

**Wednesday 5th October & Wednesday 12th October**

from **1pm to 2pm**

in **room C2.15**

Please e-mail c.ferrier@westminster.ac.uk if you wish to attend either of the sessions stating preferred date.

Repeat sessions will be made available if demand exceeds room size.
October 2011 to March 2012, drop-in session attendance and subject areas.
Student preferences for numeracy support in December 2011 (n=13)
Conclusions

• Continue with Drop-in sessions Semester 1 only (four members of staff, two per session)
• More resources to be made available on Blackboard
• Selected topics on a weekly basis
October 2012 to December 2012 drop-in session attendance and subject areas.
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<td>04/10/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>06/12/12</td>
<td>pH calculations</td>
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Information and activities from the drop-in sessions

Enabled: Statistics Tracking
A few notes plus an opportunity for you to practice the examples from the sessions.

Solutions, concentrations and dilutions.

Availability: Item is no longer available. It was last available on 30-Jul-2013 23:59.
Enabled: Statistics Tracking
Attached Files: Solutions.pdf (139.948 KB)

I'd appreciate your feedback on the usefulness of the attached pdf document.

Is there anything we can do to make it better or clearer??

Thanks, Stephen

Interactive Numeracy Resource

Enabled: Statistics Tracking
A resource we have produced for all our undergraduate students, you may find some of it helpful.
Here’s the link again:
http://caypool.wmin.ac.uk/~video/school/sols/numeracyurl/1o1.html

Some numeracy resources

Enabled: Statistics Tracking
Attached Files: Numeracy Support Resources.doc (13.919 KB)  Numeracy Support Resources.pdf (68.523 KB)
Question 2

\[(4 \times 10^{-8}) \times (5 \times 10^{3}) = \]
- \[2 \times 10^{-4}\]
- \[2 \times 10^{5}\]
- \[9 \times 10^{-5}\]
- \[20 \times 10^{-5}\]

Question 3

\[(9 \times 10^{-3}) \times (9 \times 10^{-2}) = \]
- \[810\]
- \[8.1 \times 10^{-4}\]
- \[0.81\]
- \[8.1 \times 10^{4}\]

Question 4

\[(2 \times 10^{7}) \div (4 \times 10^{-3}) = \]
- \[5 \times 10^{10}\]
- \[8 \times 10^{3}\]
Student preferences for numeracy support in December 2012 (n = 29)
A few comments..

“Thank you all for introducing the numeracy drop in sessions, it has helped me a great deal. Thanks again and I hope these sessions will be ongoing.”

“I loved all of the Drop In sessions. I will definitely recommend them to everybody”

“Excellent and very worthwhile sessions.”

“Numeracy support is an absolute god send, I believe that students should be screened for numeracy skills as they are with literacy and given extra support.”

“Just a real God send the sessions have been really helpful thank you.”

“You may consider to put more material on Blackboard with included answers:)”
What now?

- October and November weekly Drop-in sessions
- Production of Camtasia videos to mirror the Drop-in sessions
- Increase provision of self-tests on Blackboard
- Investigate new software for interactive multimedia production