

Statistics advisory meeting: Improving the support we give to students and each other

Place: Birmingham City University, Perry Barr, Birmingham

Date: April 9th 2014

Registration 10:15 – 10:45am End Time: 3:15pm

This is a free event with lunch provided, aimed at anyone who provides statistics advice/support to undergraduate or postgraduate students, who wishes to share their experience, would also like to hear how others carry out a similar role and is interested in how we can support each other. This is organised by the North East and Midlands Sigma hubs but is open to all.

Key discussion topics: How best to provide statistics support; Centralised resources; Supporting new statistics tutors.

Session 1: Improving practice in the provision of statistics support:

Discussion based on dealing with a typical student scenario including questions such as: What questions should be asked of a student coming in with a real data set? What techniques are appropriate for students with different levels of ability in statistics and mathematics? How to help students to help themselves rather than doing the analysis for them? How to help students if it's coursework? What to do if you don't know the answer? We hope that these discussions will allow us to share our experiences and to identify how to improve our practice.

Session 2: Centralised statistics resources:

Update on the [statstutor](#) website and in particular the Statstutor Community Project portal, where it is possible for us to share our resources. A review of the portal will be provided from recent contributor and reviewer giving an insight into how it operates.

Prior to attending please consider any practice based material that might be suitable for the portal as we will be looking at the ['wishlist'](#) to discuss what's missing and what we can contribute as a community. There will soon be a funding call coming from [sigma](#) to fund the development of new mathematics and statistics resources and so the discussions could also focus on the most useful resources and ideas for areas which could be applicable for funding e.g. 'Develop a resource day'.

Session 3: Supporting new statistics tutors

Almost everyone coming into statistics support would benefit from some kind of further training or support. This could be an introduction to SPSS, help with consultancy or teaching skills or project statistics in general. How can those of us already providing statistics support, pass on our experiences and expertise to others? This session will discuss what training workshops already exist, before moving on to what would be most helpful to new statistics tutors. It would be really helpful to have a range of people from experienced statisticians to mathematicians who have provided statistics advice, to hear about the challenges they faced and how they dealt with those challenges.

Click [here](#) to register for the meeting.

Please get in touch if there is anything else you would like to discuss or if you have any student scenarios which would lead to a good discussion of potential methods for analysis.

Contacts: Peter Samuels (peter.samuels@bcu.ac.uk) for information on the venue,
Alun Owen (a.j.owen@lboro.ac.uk) for content/ offers to speak
Ellen Marshall (ellen.marshall@sheffield.ac.uk) for general inquiries