

## **CETL-MSOR Conference 2015**

### **Chrystella Ferrier and Ian Bailey: Within module numeracy support for life sciences students**

Numeracy support has been available to life sciences students at University of Westminster since September 2011, in the form of optional attendance structured drop-in sessions and the availability of local and external resources on the VLE, Blackboard. In a survey undertaken in December 2012, the second highest request from students was that more numeracy support be contained within the modules themselves, the highest being for the continuation of the drop-in sessions.

Approximately 500 students across all pathways study a core level 4 module, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and successful completion of some assessments requires students to have numeracy skills in certain areas. This year we have incorporated numeracy support into this module in addition to the continuation of the first semester drop-in sessions. Within module support has comprised of a self-assessment numeracy and chemistry test, weekly mathematics problems with videos providing guidance, followed by videos of the answers and two attendance mathematics tutorials all available in the first eight weeks of study. In addition the materials from the drop-in sessions were made available in this module Blackboard site.

These resources will be presented for discussion in addition to a comparison of student performance across the whole module and in an assessment requiring a range of numeracy skills between this academic year and the previous.