

CETL-MSOR Conference 2015

Claire Cornock: Teaching mathematics to Business and ICT students in a module based around excel

Within this session, a case study of a mathematics module 'Information Analysis' for Business and ICT students will be presented. The assessment for the module consists of four coursework assignments that are all done within excel. The content of the module was carefully selected to be relevant and useful to the students further on in their degree and beyond. Topics include financial maths and data analysis.

There is a large focus on the development of skills such as research and communication. The students are required to pay attention to how they use excel, how they present their work and their explanations. Comments are frequently received from previous students who have said that the skills they learnt within the module have played a part in them obtaining employment after they have completed their studies.

In addition to lectures and computer tutorials, the students have access to a collection of short video tutorials which contain examples presented within the lectures. The challenges of teaching this module will be explored, including teaching students with different abilities, the limitations of the classroom environment and the problem of maths anxiety. The session will contain details of the content of the module, descriptions of the assessment methods, the teaching methods and how challenges have been addressed..