

## Conferència plenària

### How can assessment and feedback enhance students' learning?

Dai Hounsell - University Of Edinburgh

Far-reaching changes are taking place in the feedback that university students get on their progress and performance, for two main reasons. One is a better understanding of how feedback can help (and can impede) high-quality learning; the other is the emergence of new ways of giving feedback, mainly enabled by developments in information technology.

At the same time, assessment itself is being transformed, both by those new technologies and by fresh thinking about assessment purposes and standards.

This keynote examines these changes in assessment and feedback, illustrated by examples drawn particularly from the fields of engineering, the sciences, and architecture.

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#### Biographical notes



**Professor Dai Hounsell** is currently Vice-Principal for Assessment and Feedback at the University of Edinburgh, in a part-time capacity. From 2009 to August 2012 he was the University's Vice-Principal for Academic Enhancement and Professor of Higher Education from 2000 until his formal retirement from a full-time position in December 2012.

He joined the University of Edinburgh in 1985 as founding Director of the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Assessment, having previously held posts at Lancaster, East London, Portsmouth and (as Swedish Institute visiting research fellow) Gothenburg Universities. In 2007 he was awarded a Fellowship by the Society for Research into Higher Education.

He is an enthusiastic teacher, student advisor and contributor to academic development programmes for lecturers and tutors. Most of his teaching in recent years has been at postgraduate level, supervising doctoral research students, co-teaching an EdD course on engaging with the educational literature and a MSc course on online assessment.

He has led several multi-institutional higher education research and development projects with external funding, including Enhancing Teaching-Learning Environments in Undergraduate Courses (Economic & Social Research Council, 2001-05), Innovative Assessment Across the Disciplines (Higher Education Academy, 2006-07) and Integrative Assessment (QAA Scotland/SFC, 2005-07). He has advised universities and higher education organisations in Australia, South Africa, Hong Kong and mainland China, Norway, and Sweden, as well as in Scotland and across the United Kingdom.

He has published widely on assessment and feedback and many other aspects of learning and teaching in higher education, and his many publications include *The Experience of Learning*, *What Is Active Learning?*, *Integrative Assessment*, and *Leading Change in Assessment and Feedback*. From 1998 to 2005 he was Coordinating Editor (Teaching and Learning) of the international journal *Higher Education*. Since he and his wife Jenny created the *Enhancing Feedback* website some four years ago, it has attracted 27,000 visitors from across the world.