

Area of Activity 2: Teaching and/or support learning

This is about your direct engagement with learners (as individuals or in groups) and is an opportunity to showcase the different approaches and methods you use to support learning. Relevant ideas for A2 include:

- large and small group teaching (lectures, tutorials, seminar work, lab demonstrating, field trips, etc)
- supervision of undergraduate student projects
- supporting individual students (e.g. Part Three or Masters dissertation supervision)
- involvement with specific learning approaches, e.g. PBL (Problem based learning) or TBL (Team based learning)
- peer learning
- distance learning
- study skills
- use of Blackboard (or other VLE) to teach/support learning
- supporting and/or mentoring less experienced peers who are taking on teaching responsibilities

What literature might you look at for Area of Activity 2?

(Please note, there might be some overlap with other Areas of Activity, particularly Areas of Activity 1 and 4)

- TEL
- Independent learning
- Modelling and scaffolding
- Motivation (intrinsic/extrinsic)
- Student-centred activities
- Internationalisation of the curriculum
- Experiential learning
- Group work
- Independent learning
- Approaches to supervision
- Designing effective resources to support learning

Student engagement:

- Active learning
- Teaching large groups/lectures
- Effective learning in small groups (group dynamics)
- Addressing individual needs (e.g. students with specific learning needs/students from different cultural backgrounds)

Institutional and sector priorities you might refer to:
(Please note, as with other elements, there may be some overlap with other Areas of Activity)

- Curriculum Framework
- Diversity & inclusion
- Employability
- Internationalisation/globalisation
- Research-led teaching
- TEF
- Student- staff partnerships
- Student evaluation and feedback including NSS, PTES & ISB

Useful questions to answer when writing Area of Activity 2 of your PAT

- What are your objectives when you teach? What do you want to achieve? How does the way you teach reflect these intentions?
- What are the main methods/approaches that you use to teach/support learning, and why?
- What techniques/activities do you use, and why?
- How is your teaching influenced by the student cohort (e.g. Part One undergraduates/postgraduates/international students)?
- What innovations have you tried/introduced? Why did you try them? How effective were they?
- How do you encourage active/independent/deep learning or how do you discourage surface learning?
- How do you help to develop your students' key skills (e.g. critical thinking, working with others, numeracy)
- Do you think your teaching sessions/strategies are effective? If yes, how do you know? If no, what might you change/tweak?
- What aspects of teaching have you found especially challenging and what have you done to overcome these challenges?
- What kind of role have you played in supporting your peers to prepare for a teaching role?
- What links can you make between Area of Activity 2 and other dimensions within Core Knowledge and the Professional Values?