

Area of Activity 5: Engage in continuing professional development in subjects/disciplines and their pedagogy, incorporating research, scholarship and the evaluation of professional practice

A5 comprises three elements. Whilst these three elements might be viewed holistically, it is important that each individual element is understood and demonstrated.

- 1. Continuing professional development in subjects/disciplines and their pedagogy;**
- 2. Incorporating research and scholarship;**
- 3. The evaluation of (one's own) professional practices.**

Effective practitioners constantly seek to develop professionally by engaging with other sources (e.g. through CPD activity, by engaging with pedagogic scholarship/research, by evaluating practice). Within the A5 section you should summarise relevant activity that has supported your professional development and also outline your future CPD plans. However, assessors would be concerned if CPD activity was only referred to in this section as it could suggest that you see CPD as something discrete or abstract. For this reason, you should make links throughout the application to how CPD has informed your practice.

N.B. Activities undertaken as part of a group or team are as relevant to A5 as individual activities.

CPD should be viewed in broad terms. Relevant activities to A5, therefore, may include:

- attending T&L workshops (including departmental or school-based events)
- attending departmental or school-based T&L showcases
- attending the P2T course
- engaging with pedagogic and subject literature
- peer interchanges (e.g. peer review of teaching; informal dialogue and conversations; formal opportunities to discuss T&L)
- peer observations of teaching (as observer or observed)
- participating in (or presenting at) conferences and seminars on T&L
- making changes to your teaching practice as a result of CPD
- participating in webinars
- engaging in projects or research on T&L
- engaging in purposeful and critical reflection of practice
- linking your research and teaching for your students
- taking an evaluative approach to your practice
- review, evaluation or audit activities
- exchanges/visits/secondments to other institutions or organisations
- team teaching

What literature might you look at for Area of Activity 5?

(Please note, there might be some overlap with other Areas of Activity)

In writing your PAT for A5 you may also wish to refer to the literature and themes recommended for Areas of Activity 1-4, depending upon which of the three elements to A5 you are focusing on. In addition to these ideas, literature on the following themes might be helpful:

- Reflective practice
- Peer learning
- Collaborative learning
- Approaches to evaluation
- Research-teaching synergies
- Communities of Practice

Useful questions to answer when writing Area of Activity 5 of your PAT

- What activities have I engaged in which evidences my commitment to improving my teaching practice?
- What events have I attended or contributed to, such as workshops, presentations, or conferences, to develop my understanding about teaching and learning?
- In what ways have I taken an evidence-based approach in order to evaluate and enhance my practice as a teacher and/or supporter of learning?
- In what ways do I take a reflective approach to my practice, and how/why is it helpful?
- How have I learned from my peers/more experienced colleagues and what has the impact of this been?
- How have I collaborated with peers/more experienced colleagues to support teaching and learning?