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Students learning with communities

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Title: Students learning with communities

Lecturer: Claire McDonnell and Sarah Rawe

Programme and year on which assessment was offered

BSc Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Year 2

Description

Students work in groups to research and prepare a short scientific demonstration and hands-on activities for partner primary school children in an initiative called "A Slice of Science". Each member of the group prepares on section of the lesson plan and the group has time to practice and prepare the lesson on-site before going to the primary school to run the demonstration/workshop. Students are assessed based on the use of online discussion board activities and their participation in class. Further assessment includes the standard of the lesson delivered off site, a reflective essay and a log-book.

Why did you use this Assessment?

This approach to teaching and assessment has been used regularly in the USA and Europe; however, it has only recently become popular in Ireland. It integrates classroom learning, in any subject, with a suitable volunteering activity. The method not only allows for the application of academic skills and knowledge to community needs, but also for the assessment of academic learning, the introduction of experiential learning and structured reflection into the curriculum.

How do you give feedback to students?

Feedback is provided during the lesson preparation, with comments added to the students log-book.