

The Personal Tutor and Personal Development Planning at the University of Liverpool

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- Be aware of the personal tutorial system implemented at the University of Liverpool
- Be able to identify the key issues raised by combining PDP with personal tutoring

PDP: National Policy

The QAA expects higher education institutions to provide opportunities for Personal Development Planning.

This initiative has come from the Dearing Report (1997).

National Policy

“a **structured** and **supported** process undertaken by an individual to reflect upon their own learning, performance and/or achievement and to plan for their personal, educational and career development”

(QAA: Progress Files for Higher Education: 2000)

What happens at Liverpool.

- An expanded personal tutor system
- Students in Y1 and Y2 entitled to one meeting per semester
- Student takes responsibility
- LUSID

The University of Liverpool and LAUT/UCU prepared an operational agreement

The agreement:

- Staff will schedule PDP meetings with a maximum of 8 year-1 and 8 year-2 students once per semester, each timetabled for 15 minutes.
- Staff will not be responsible for the non-attendance of students
- All academic staff should undertake PDP-Personal Tutoring

Liverpool
University
Student
Interactive
Database

Feedback from Liverpool students...

'I was able to talk with my personal tutor about my progress...that helped a lot.'

'I emailed..my tutor but never heard anything back..the whole thing seemed pointless.'

'..helped me to discuss further areas where I can improve and gave me early guidance on career options. Very helpful.'

'I don't find that sort of thing beneficial...just provides more things to remember. Might be useful to others.'

'The main reason it was good was my tutor..he was friendly and easy to get on with..he made the session useful.'

'I was unable to meet with my tutor as he was out of the country.'

'I found it very helpful to reflect upon my exam results..'

'I had more important work to do.'

'Slightly useful....but not much.'

Group discussion

Is it more appropriate to separate or link the role of personal tutor and personal development planning tutor?

Group Discussion

Does the implementation of PDP have a negative effect on the pastoral role of the personal tutor?

How to make the integration of PT and PDP more successful....?

- Find ways to make PDP meetings part of normal staff workload.
- Provide a structured agenda for each meeting AND...
- ...allow this agenda to be customised by departments/programmes.
- Put the onus for preparing for the meeting on the student.
- Specify limits of tutor role clearly.
- Use technology to support the process through providing guidance and holding records.