

## Simon Thomson

Simon Thomson is a "flipped academic" driven by the passion he has for technology & learning. An educational practitioner - working in academia and flipping experiences for a wide range of staff and students in Higher Education.

So, what is a flipped academic? An unorthodox academic working in an H.E. environment, trying to make a practical difference to the staff and student experience.

The Flipped Academic (Bruton 2012) is someone who:

- Informs first and publishes later
- Works within the research-teaching-service paradigm but adopts criteria to maximize impact
- Seeks "the truth" and "usefulness" together
- Views funding received as an input, not an output
- Builds learning environments, not lectures
- Works where they need to work

He has led on a number of funded projects including a £200'000 JISC/HEA funded OER project as part of the Phase 1 UKOER programme which implemented an OER repository at Leeds Metropolitan University and established an embedded approach to OER use. He is currently leading on an institution-wide pilot of tablet devices as part of funded research into the impact of 1to1 tablet device deployment and the effects on learning & teaching. He has presented his work at a number of national and international conferences and is now working towards his PHD by published works. His current research focusses on the development of a conversational framework for e-learning. The purpose of the framework is to humanise the use of technology and to begin to seek to establish the use of technology as a solution to a task or problem rather than a "must have" activity. The "4E Framework" can be attributed to questioning the use of e-learning in the following ways:

- What can technology "enable" us to do?
- How can technology "enhance" what we already do?
- How can technology "enrich" our learning experiences?
- How can technology "empower" learners & teachers?

Simon is an Apple Distinguished Educator, SEDA accredited in Embedding Learning Technologies and a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

You can follow Simon on twitter @digisim