

Peer-observation in Higher Education

A review of the literature to inform current practice at the University of Liverpool

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Why this project?

- **Peer-observation** of teaching is a practice in which one or more staff observe the teaching of another and provide feedback for reflection and discussion.
- It's widely used as a CPD tool in UK higher education, for strengthening bonds between staff, and disseminate good pedagogic practice.
- This will be my attempt to summarize some of the knowledge from the teaching and learning literature of the past decade.
- I will analyse the literature and compare against current practice employed at the University of Liverpool.
- **Goal 1:** Identify the key recommendations that can be distilled from current literature.
- **Goal 2:** Strengthen my own knowledge of the subject in preparation of undertaking peer-observation professionally (A5, K2-6, V3).
- **Ideal outcome:** Inform the current practice of peer-observation within the PGCAP program and the School of Environmental Sciences of the University of Liverpool, UK.

Investigation strategy

Literature search:

- Browse the literature using scholarly search engines. Search terms will be chosen to highlight HE applications.
- Start with the most current studies, paying particular attention to any involving online and hybrid learning.
- Follow citation networks to gather the required context and fill in missing studies not identified during searches.
- Take notes on main points of each paper, as well as main keywords to enhance future search terms.

This strategy is appropriate for gaining a broad understanding of a field of inquiry in a short amount of time. By focusing on the past 10 years of scholarship, I will make sure that I am finding the most up-to-date literature and that I can execute this study within the scope of the ADEV701 module and available time.

Dissemination strategy

Ideally, the outcomes of this study can be used to inform current implementations of peer-observation at the University of Liverpool and other institutions.

Furthermore, it will clarify my own understanding and that of my colleagues of the best-practices around peer-observation. As such, dissemination of this knowledge must be: publicly accessible, easily readable, easily shared on social media, and ideally extensible by either myself or others.

A **blog or website** seems to be the ideal medium. Such a website must:

- Be openly accessible on the internet, not on a private closed platform such as social media websites or paid blogging services like medium.com.
- Have a clearly visible open license, such as Creative Commons Attribution, to allow reuse by others with few restrictions (e.g., adaptation for internal newsletters, courses, etc).
- Include a short summary for those reading quickly, deeper long-form content, and ample links to the relevant literature in order to suite different readers needs.

To achieve these requirements, I will generate my report in the form of a section on my PGCAP e-portfolio website leouieda.com/pgcap. The website will contain links to the literature and a summary for quick skimming. Upon publication, I will share it on social media, mailing lists, and internal groups to disseminate my findings and lessons learned.