

RUN LEARNING AND TEACHING AWARDS 2024

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Title: Social Learning for the regions - supporting interactive online learning

Abstract: The L&T innovation supports first year accounting students in regional Australia to engage actively with each other – while studying online.

At its centrepiece are individualised, authentic assessments, with regular feedback.

The assignments are learning tasks, involving two major assignments submitted in several steps (95% of assessment).

Each student has their own listed company: making their assignment unique to them. Students can share draft work with each other and freely discuss their learning. And using real companies gives students ‘real-world’ experiences.

The assignments were supported by other interventions – teacher-student relationship (not impose clear-cut answers), teamwork (use various cooperative learning techniques) and instruction (include instruction on six Conceptions of Learning – students aware of different ways we can experience our learning).

These support engagement by equity cohorts, where students are motivated to actively participate with the academic experiences, resulting in a superior learning experience that celebrates and involves their personal and regional identity.

There is significant interaction between students – on their blogs, on the various forums in Moodle, on the unit Facebook page and on PeerWise. And students widely report in their reflective learning journals their enjoyment of the subject and their feelings of inclusion, support, and engagement with other regional students.