

PEER [Peer Evaluation in Education Review] Project

"...If we want students to develop critical thinking, judgement and autonomy in assignment production they should be provided with high-level evaluative experiences similar to those of experts. Peer review, students evaluating and commenting on each other's work, is one way to achieve this".

What is the PEER project?

- ❑ PEER stands for Peer Evaluation in Education Review
- ❑ the PEER project is funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) under its innovation grants scheme [July 1st 2010 to June 30th 2011]
- ❑ the project is led by the University of Strathclyde
- ❑ the PEER project will identify educational designs for peer review and software tools to support peer review implementation
- ❑ it will also pilot and evaluate some peer review implementations

Why is the PEER project important?

- ❑ the PEER project builds on the REAP project and has two core premises
- ❑ that learning will be significantly enhanced when students engage in regular activities where they make judgements about the work of peers
- ❑ that making judgements and giving feedback is cognitively more productive for learning than just receiving feedback
- ❑ the PEER project will explore ways of harnessing technology to make peer review easy and cost-effective to implement

Objectives of the PEER project

- ❑ Review the literature and identify the educational features of effective peer review.
- ❑ Map available software systems that support peer review to the educational features.
- ❑ Pilot and evaluate peer review using software in academic departments at the University of Strathclyde
- ❑ Produce guidelines for effective implementation of peer review using software with large student numbers.
- ❑ Provide evidence-based information for others wishing to implement peer review.

Project Methodology

The PEER project has three phases.

- ❑ Development of a framework and the identification of a set of educational designs for peer review as well as a mapping and evaluation of existing software systems that support peer review.
- ❑ Conduct some pilot implementations of peer review in at least two different disciplinary areas and evaluate the benefits.
- ❑ Production of outputs, in particular, guidelines on how to implement peer review using software and a literature review. Other outputs will be produced and disseminated through the website, events and project reports.

Anticipated outputs and outcomes of the PEER project

Outputs

- ❑ A website documenting project progress
- ❑ Educational designs for peer review
- ❑ Analysis of technologies available for peer review
- ❑ Guidelines on how to implement peer review
- ❑ Evaluation of pilot implementations including description of lessons learned
- ❑ Papers in peer reviewed journals and reports.

Outcomes

- ❑ Raise awareness and improve understanding of the educational benefits of peer review in further and higher education
- ❑ Provide a framework for current and future implementations of technology-supported peer review
- ❑ Provide an overview of the state-of-play of software tools for peer review
- ❑ Scope future work required

Project Team

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