

KEYNOTE 3: Approaches to Supporting HE Students with Numeracy Needs

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Biography

Dr Peter Samuels is the Senior Research Fellow in the SIGMA Centre for Excellence in Mathematics and Statistics Support at Coventry University as well as Serious Games Applied Research Group Coordinator.

His research interests include:

- Resource development for self-paced learning in discrete mathematics
- Appreciative Inquiry research into mathematics support leadership in UK HE
- Mathematics study skills resource development
- Serious games and mobile learning in HE mathematics
- Informal training of mathematics education PhD students
- Collaborations between mathematics support and academic writing

Abstract

This presentation will begin with a description of the definition, rationale, history and current provision of mathematics support services in UK HE. The recent developments in mathematics support provision through the award of Centre for Excellence status to the SIGMA project at Coventry and Loughborough Universities will then be described. In particular, strategies and resources for supporting the numeracy needs of students in UK HE will be described with particular reference to:

- University-wide mathematics support services
- Faculty-based numeracy support services
- Mathematics support outreach services
- Special needs mathematics support services
- Statistics advisory services
- A proactive teaching programme
- The development of study skills resources
- The use of new technologies in mathematics support services

Finally, a recent collaboration with an academic writing centre will be discussed which suggests a possible innovative approach to assisting the development of numeracy teaching within UK HE institutions.