

Student Research Conference

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1. Introduction

The School of Sport and Exercise Student Research Conference was a new venture, which combined the presentation assessment of the Level 6 Independent Project (SP6002), an open exhibition to display and celebrate research, and a party on completion of the students' studies.

2. Practice/innovation detail

The Student Research Conference was planned and organised in collaboration with five students from the BA (Hons) Events Management programme, to run a large scale event. Funding was secured from the University of Gloucestershire Enhanced Student Year Activities fund and from the School of Sport and Exercise. Planning began in September 2014 and encompassed a wide range of logistics, including marketing, booking facilities, catering, entertainment and equipment, health and safety checks, and organising the submission and display of 275 posters and assessment schedules on the day.

There were three main elements:

- the conference included the display of academic posters from 275 students from Sports Coaching, Sports Development, Sports Education, Sports and Exercise Science, Sports Science and Sports Strength and Conditioning programmes. Assessments included a poster presentation of every student's projects in the Sports Hall with 30 members of academic staff and one administrator in two separate two-hour assessment schedule slots. Immediately after assessments, various moderation activities took place in nine staff clusters.
- An open exhibition was integrated with the assessment schedule where dignitaries, external examiners, local partners, Growth Hub, schools, clubs, societies, additional staff and level 4 and 5 students were invited to observe and celebrate research from the School of Sport and Exercise. Furthermore, this opportunity encouraged and reinforced the School's research links with the community and business partners.
- The #UOGAFTERPARTY included music entertainment and a barbeque in the outdoor area of the Growth Hub, which provided students with a 'moment' for them to celebrate, as a cohort, the completion of their studies.

3. Evaluation

We conducted an online questionnaire immediately after the SP6002 assessments to establish the students' thoughts and feelings about the organisation, assessment criteria, assessment schedule, location, #UOGAFTERPARTY, marketing etc. A large number of dignitaries attended the open exhibition, indicating significant interest in the conference, and we received very positive feedback from both staff and dignitaries, and many commendations. The Events Management students received a first class for their module.

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4. Conclusions

The School of Sport and Exercise Student Research Conference was a successful event. All students completed their assessments on time, and in a relaxed but exciting environment. Staff completed their marking and electronically submitted grades and feedback on the day. The assessment environment was sports specific and allowed for maximum display of research posters. Many of the posters were requested to be presented at the UOG Celebration of Research events and the Growth Hub. A short movie was made to celebrate the success of the conference and will be used in future School of Sport and Exercise applicant and Open Day events at Oxstalls campus.

Video clip: <https://animoto.com/play/MJ7zweD5TwNkh4YVX5uaYg>

5. Further information

Module/Course/Department:	SP6002 Independent Project – Sport and Exercise
Subject Area	
Level	6
Number of students	275
Academic Year (if appropriate):	2014-15
Keywords:	Student research