

# Widening Peer Mentoring Among Postgraduate Tutors Using a Wiki Environment



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## Issue

PG tutoring can be:

- Daunting!
- Each student cohort is different
- Tutors have range of experiences/abilities

## Possible solution

**FACT** - informal peer support (sharing resources, techniques & experience) most valuable teaching support tutors get

**BUT** – sporadic and hard to come by

**SOLUTION** – Wiki that tutors share?

## Project – create peer tutor wiki

- Over 2 semesters, all 1st year courses
- 4 subject areas (8 courses)
- All comment weekly
  - Experienced tutors comment beforehand
  - “Novice” tutors afterwards (reflect, further questions)
- Add resources/links
- Legacy for future tutors
- Course managers have no access, tutors to see it as their space

## Practical issues

- Confluence software (University hosted)
  - Allows setting of differing permissions
  - Different editing options – wiki markup and rich text
- One page per course but free to create “own” pages below it
- Scaffolding pages
- Training session in computing lab – software and methodology
- Support – pastoral and technical
- Focus groups, questionnaires and analysis of content

## Early Findings

- Each group used the wiki differently.
- Level of engagement varied considerably: some tutors embraced the objectives; others were more reticent.
- Whilst most collaborated within their own course, there was little cross-discipline sharing of materials.
- Some had reservations about using a wiki in such a structured way having found the time commitment too demanding within their existing schedule of research, marking and teaching.

## ‘Comments’

- Learn more regularly from others
- Get tips
- Get useful feedback from others

