



**7th Annual Enhancement Themes Conference
2 and 3 March 2010
Edinburgh Conference Centre
Heriot-Watt University**

Poster Proposal From

Poster proposals should be submitted electronically to QAA Scotland at enhancement@qaa.ac.uk by end of **Tuesday 8 December 2009**.

Please complete the form below.

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Details of other contacts (include **all** who will be involved, adding lines as needed)

Name:	Dr Sara Parvis
Institution:	University of Edinburgh
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Title of poster:	Academic skills for undergraduate students		
Poster to be presented on	2 March		

Which of the Enhancement Themes does the poster address?

Please tick (✓) as many as apply

Graduates for the 21st Century: Integrating the Enhancement Themes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Research-Teaching Linkages: enhancing graduate attributes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
First Year: engagement and empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Flexible Delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Employability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Responding to Student Needs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assessment and Integrative Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>

Abstract

We will present our experience of running an academic skills course for first year students for the last two years. We will illustrate the types of skills that we cover e.g essay writing, use of Library and general IT skills – skills required for their academic

work and also for their future career (screen shots of some of the materials will be made available). Due to timetabling issues this course is presented online, supplemented with a few short lectures. It is zero credit bearing but it does appear in student transcripts. Currently the course is not compulsory, although all first year students are enrolled on the course and have two years to complete it. Uptake has been mixed – some students say they already have these skills (although our evidence shows otherwise) and others say it is difficult to complete along with the demands of their other work. We are currently debating whether to make the course compulsory and a requirement for all our degree programmes and the poster will illustrate some of the pros and cons of our approach.

Points to note:

All those whose poster proposals are accepted are required to register and attend the conference.

Successful submissions may be published in future display/exhibition material, in publications/newsletters, news releases or on QAA's internet and intranet site. To this end, please only use photographs if you have gained signed permission from those people appearing in them