

# Opening Statement

Hello

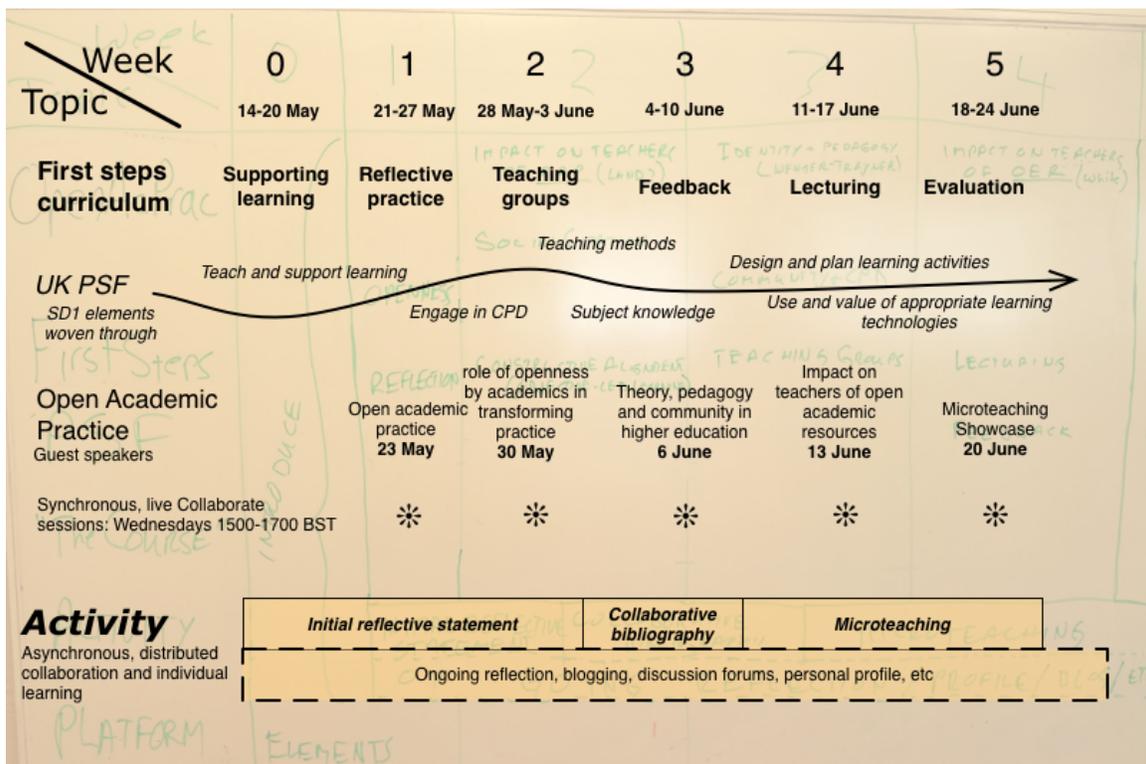
I'm George Roberts

On behalf of the course team, Oxford Brookes University and the funding bodies: the Higher Education Academy and the JISC, Welcome to the "Open Line" mooc: "First Steps into Learning and Teaching in Higher Education".

In this brief chat I am going to go through the basic structure of the course: how the curriculum and activities are set up and what you might want to do as a participant.

Although we have participated and lurked in several moocs of various sorts, this is the first one that our team has organised, so we are all learning together.

In this talk I will be referring throughout to the diagram representing the course structure. This appears on each of the main weekly pages in the Moodle and on the schedule page in Wordpress.



There are three broad and inter-related topic areas that this course is addressing:

- The First Steps Curriculum
- The UK Professional Standards Framework
- Open Academic Practice.

## **First topic area: First Steps Curriculum**

The First Steps Curriculum is derived from Oxford Brookes University's New Lecturers Programme. It is aligned with our Associate Teachers Course and Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education. The curriculum is usually engaged with face-to-face over either two full days or four half days. It amounts to about 25 percent of the 20 credit postgraduate module entitled Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (P70405)

### **Curriculum aligned with Activities**

In the MOOC, this curriculum is directly aligned with the three asynchronous, distributed collaborative Activities (on the diagram ranged across the bottom). In the face-to-face course, versions of these activities are diagnostic and formative, supporting the more substantial summative assessment activities of the full module. We are in the process of breaking out the curriculum elements of our New Lecturers Programme in order to offer more flexibility for participants. This MOOC is a stage in this process, piloting summative assessment of the Activities. I will speak more about the assessments in another short talk.

## **Second topic area: UK Professional Standards Framework (PSF)**

The second topic area is the Higher Education Academy's UK Professional Standards Framework (PSF) for Teachers in Higher Education. The PSF can be found in full here: <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/ukpsf>. The PSF has four levels Associate, Fellow, Senior Fellow and Principal Fellow. These are referred to as "Standard Descriptors".

### **First Steps Curriculum aligned with PSF**

This MOOC and the face-to-face First Steps programme is aligned with Standard Descriptor 1 and, at present, Associate Fellowship of the Academy can be awarded on completion of the full 20 credit module.

Six elements of the PSF are woven through this course:

- Areas of activity 1, 2 and 5;
  - A1 Designing and Planning learning activities
  - A2 Teaching and supporting learning
  - A5 Engaging in CPD
- Core Knowledge 1, 2, and 4:
  - K1 Subject Knowledge
  - K2 Teaching methods
  - K4 Using and valuing appropriate learning technologies

### **Professional values are implicit throughout the course**

The four Professional Values of the PSF, we trust, are implicit throughout the practice of the course:

1. Respect for individual learners and diverse learning communities

2. Promoting participation in Higher Education
3. Using evidence-informed approaches and the outcomes from research, scholarship and continuing professional development
4. Acknowledgment of the wider context in which Higher Education operates, and recognising the implications for professional practice.

### **Third topic area: open academic practice**

The third topic area is open academic practice. The very fact that this is a mooc suggests we are engaging with this topic implicitly. But this is not an unproblematic area. The mooc has been funded by the HEA and the JISC under the Open Educational Resources (OER) Programme (<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/oer>) .

### **Open Academic Practice explored in four live sessions**

In the First Steps MOOC we are exploring Open Academic Practice through four synchronous, live Collaborate sessions on four successive Wednesdays at 3.00 p.m. British Summer Time.

In the first live session on Wednesday 23 May, Rhona Sharpe and I will introduce the concept of Openness and explore some of the tensions around Open Educational Resources, Open Academic Practice and the wider area of resource-based learning.

On 30 May, Frances Bell will explore the role of openness by academics in the transformation of their practice.

On 6 June, Beverley and Etienne Wenger-Trayner will engage us with the ideas of theory, pedagogy and identity in higher education

and on 13 June Dave White will discuss the impact that Open Educational Resources and Open Academic Practice are having on the (digital) university.

The final live session on 20 June will be a showcase for participants' microteaching activity.

In my next talks I will discuss the activities in more detail, the nature of the assessment on this MOOC and the First Steps Curriculum.

So, for now, let me again welcome you on behalf of the course team to the First Steps into Learning and Teaching in Higher Education MOOC - FSLT12. We hope you enjoy the course!.