

What challenges have there been?

The biggest challenge has been communicating the SFS to individual staff members. Some people seemed to misinterpret the purpose and others were not hearing about it at all. This was largely due to our initial focus on purely student engagement which has developed into a truly partnership focus.

How can technology be used?

Most Student Fellows projects incorporate technology into their projects (e.g. online surveys) but a large number focus on improving the use of technology for both educational and experiential purposes that are inherently relevant to students because they are decided upon by students.

How sustainable is the scheme?

The success of its pilot phase and first year the scheme has been funded for the foreseeable future. This has been due to great support strategically across the institution, Winchester's commitment to innovative ideas for student engagement and the strong partnership between the University and the Student Union.

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Co-directors:

Tom Lowe– Vice President, Education (Winchester Student Union)

Dr Stuart Sims– Research & Teaching Fellow (Student Engagement)



What is the Student Fellows Scheme?

The purpose of the SFS is to recruit, train and empower students who can work alongside academics and professional staff on targeted educational development projects. These projects address a diverse range of topics which vary in scope and size but must be relevant to enhancing the student learning experience. The SFS is an attempt to both increase the level of student engagement with teaching and learning at The University of Winchester and to empower students to address varied issues, problems or barriers to a satisfying teaching, learning and social experience.

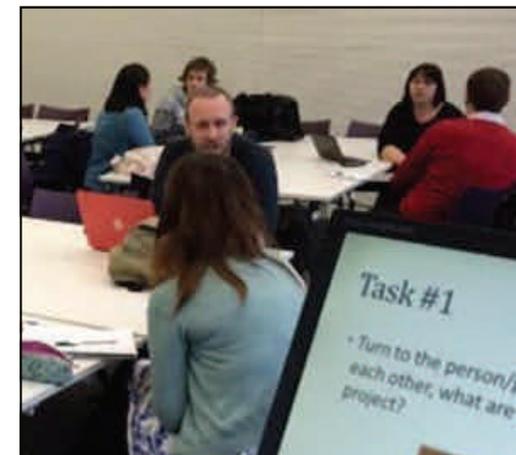


How does it operate?

The role of the Student Fellow predominantly consists of engaging in social science research, evaluating new initiatives or developing interventions relating to their university experience. These projects are carried out with a staff partner who Student Fellows are paired with based on their over-lapping areas of interest. Student Fellows receive a £600 bursary for their work on the scheme. We have a rigorous application, interview and induction process to ensure that students are properly equipped to carry out this work and that they are participating for 'the right reasons'. The SFS is advertised extensively across the institution, in particular through our intranet and social media. The scheme is managed in partnership between Learning & Teaching Development & Winchester Student Union, specifically Dr Stuart Sims (Research Fellow, Learning and Teaching) and Tom Lowe (Vice-President of Education, Student Union)

How is it funded?

The current incarnation of the SFS has developed from the pioneering work done in its 'proof of concept' stage in 2012/13. This involved a much smaller Student Fellows Scheme as part of the JISC funded FASTECH project at Winchester and Bath Spa University. Funding was secured through negotiations between the Student Union (SU), Learning and Teaching Development (LTD) and Senior Managers by demonstrating the benefit that such a programme could have to the students involved and the whole institution. There was a clear case for something to fill the gap between issues raised by students about their courses and how these issues could be addressed.



“Instead of complaining about something at university I have been able to strive to work hard and ensure the problem is resolved. I have been able to increase my creativity skills and believe I have been able to develop as an organised and dedicated individual”

Student Fellow 2013-14

What type of projects/impacts have taken place?

Student Fellow Projects explore a wide-range of educational development subject areas including:

- Assessment and Feedback
- Innovative use of technology
- Addressing NSS feedback
- Increasing Student Engagement
- Employability
- Addressing module evaluation feedback
- Innovative forms of learning and teaching