

Teaching International Students

Scenarios

Seminar

Subject area: Finance/economic related

Group profile: PGT; the majority of students are from China, other students are from the Middle East

The seminar leader asks students to prepare for the seminar by reading an article and completing a quiz on Blackboard. The quiz consists of finance problems (i.e. mainly mathematical) related to the course content.

The seminar leader starts with a discussion about the article. This bit hasn't gone very well as students seem reluctant to engage in the discussion. After 2 weeks it has become more of a mini-lecture from the seminar leader, followed by quickly checking the answers to the quiz.

Lecture

Subject area: College of Science & Engineering

Group profile: UG; a mix of home students and international students from a variety of backgrounds

From the first lecture, it was noticeable that students were struggling to maintain concentration throughout the hour. There is a lot of checking of mobile phones, and by the second half of the lecture a low murmur of student talk. The patience of the lecturer is being tested as the door makes a loud bang as late students arrive and as students leave during the lecture to go to the toilet and to answer phones.

Writing

Subject area: related to subjects which require literature review sections within assessments

Student profile: 1 PGT student; from SE Asia; first experience of studying in UK-type HE environment; student entered by meeting IELTS entry requirement

The literature review section is appropriate in length and contains academic references (though they are a little obscure, in fact some of them are not English language sources). Some sections are very well written; others contain multiple surface errors which increase reader strain. The paragraphs are long and they take time to read as they include multiple ideas and lack clarity and focus.