

INNOVATIVE LEARNING WEEK ACTIVITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCE 3 & 4th YEAR STUDENTS.

Project Proposal: Coordinated by Bryne Ngwenya; All EG STAFF

Mock Viva: Coordinated by Raja Ganeshram & Dick Kroon

Concept and approach:

The aim is to use ILW to prompt students to start thinking about their final year dissertations, for which they have to write a proposal by the end of Semester 2. During ILW, they will be given the opportunity to develop and write a proposal and to get oral as well as written feedback on the proposal. In reality, this could provide a basis for the actual project that they eventually undertake, although topics for final year projects will still be provided.

Execution and timetable:

1. Each 3rd year student will be asked to write a proposal on a topic of their own choice on a one-page template (see below).
2. The proposal will be peer-reviewed by a 4th year student, who will provide a written feedback, again using a template, and commenting on specific aspects (see below), moderated by academic staff. This has the benefit of getting input from those who have just gone through the whole process and therefore should know what is and is not feasible.
3. Each 3rd year student will make a 5-minute presentation on their proposal followed by 10-minutes of questions and discussion. This will offer an opportunity for EG3 peers to provide feedback (we may use a template for this too).
4. At the end of the session, each 3rd year student will receive written comments from 4th year peer reviewers.
5. Academic staff will provide feedback, including whether the ideas should be developed further as a potential final year dissertation project.

Timetable

Monday: EG4 students have mock viva simulating oral exams.

Tuesday 12:00 noon: EG3 students submit their written proposal, which are distributed to EG4 students by 4pm

Tuesday-Wednesday: EG3 students prepare their presentations, EG4 students review proposals.

Thursday: Presentations and discussions.

PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

Name of Candidate:

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Title | |
| Rationale | State wider importance, key previous studies, and issues arising. |
| Aims & Objectives | Define your overall aims and research objectives, setting hypothesis to be tested where applicable |
| Methods | List methods you will use to achieve your objectives: field methods, lab methods, analytical methods, data analysis. |
| Anticipated outcomes | Linked to hypothesis |
| Logistics | Estimate the costs of the project (sample numbers, access to equipment etc) Identify potential supervisors (ensuring they have the expertise in the field). |

PROPOSAL PEER REVIEW TEMPLATE

Name of Candidate:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Title | |
| Scientific merit | Comment on wider rationale, objectives and hypotheses |
| Relevance of methodology | Are the suggested methods/facilities suitable for the proposed work? What problems can you anticipate? |
| Feasibility | Based on your experience, is this feasible as a scientific project and achievable with the resources and time scale? |
| Suggestions for improvement | Suggest changes/ideas that could improve the proposal and raise feasibility element. |