

**Small Group Teaching and Learning, 2001/02 and 2002/03
Summary of end-of-year assessments**

Department / Centre / School of	Objective of the Small Group Teaching & Learning	No of new Studentships awarded		Total number of Students benefiting in 2002-03	No. of students/ Groups	Student Evaluation	Proposed Changes for 2003/04
		2001/02	2002/03				
<i>Biology</i>	To increase the level of understanding and appreciation of the BY1010 Biology course among all Junior Freshman students, thereby making the course a more enjoyable and rewarding exercise for all. The main objective, was to introduce a formal programme of small group tutorial sessions into the course, thereby allowing students to come to grips with some of the more conceptually challenging components of the course, while, at the same time, developing their study skills.	2		280-350	20-35 (14 groups)	yes	no proposed change
<i>Business Studies</i>	To provide knowledge application through the development of analytic problem solving skills in a specific context to set up a company in Ireland, self managed learning developed through personal research, internet search and idea generation competencies, skill development through group presentations using power point slides and, inter group negotiation session.	2		212	17 (12 groups)	yes	Changes to the logistics and the content of the module to provide more detailed instruction, personalised help on solving the problem and preparing reports. Provision of comprehensive information about the problem and detailed instruction on solving. Tutorials on demand on a tutor-group basis to discuss specific projects and solve emerging difficulties.
<i>Chemistry</i>	Joint Objectives are to simultaneously improve SF Chemistry teaching programme, to strengthen the motivation of science students for the subject of chemistry and to develop useful resource material for the department	1		180	8-10 (18 groups)	yes	Finish group teaching one month earlier to avoid adding to heavy workload. Random selection of students for each group. Individual rather than group assessment.
<i>Centre for Computing & Language Studies</i>	To correct a long standing failure of students on the degree to succeed in both CS and language components of the degree programme in the first year through integrating language teaching with basic introduction to Computer Programming for CSLL.	2		25	3-13 (2 groups) 2-5 (3 groups)	yes	no proposed change

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<i>Computer Science</i>	To facilitate students on the BA (mod) CSLL and on other computing degrees within the department of Computer Science in providing re-enforcement to core concepts in data structures and algorithms, but also in supporting language study and participation in CLCS language modules.		2	20	3-13 (2 groups)	yes	Improvement in timetabling schedule if possible
<i>Dental Science</i>	To facilitate development of the 'Life after Commencements' programme for dental students which offers students exposure to the arts related subjects.	1		193	7-8 (25 groups)	yes	Series will be delivered earlier in the course. Expansion of subject areas covered. Resource library will be established. Course offered to other students in the HS faculty.
<i>Economics</i>	To ensure that students reviewed a basic grounding in (i) the ability to write a structured and logical project , (ii) know how to correctly cite and reference using Havard and MLA methods. (iii) an introduction to reading and evaluation of economic literature, (iv) gain a competent working knowledge of Microsoft Word/Excel/PowerPoint, and (v) an appreciation of presentation and public speaking.		1	approx 245	20 -22 (12 groups)	to-follow	Introduce more case study type problem solving, and have teams present a summary of the latest relevant literature/reports from various relevant sources.
<i>Education</i>	To enable students to better analyse and reflect on the given courses, and to apply their knowledge and new insights to their classroom teaching.	1		356	full 3rd year B.Ed class and H.Dip Primary of 346 students and 10 4th year B.Mus.Ed	Was not aware of this requirement. Informal positive feedback received	Adjust timetables, subject to teaching space being available, to allow for more small group teaching.
<i>English</i>	To maintain and extend our commitment to small group teaching throughout the curriculum and to provide proper support, experience and training to some of our highly qualified research students.		2	160	8-13 approx (20 groups)	to follow	It was intended to extend, small group teaching to other areas of the core curriculum, but this will not be feasible due to cutbacks in the department.

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<i>Geography (A)</i>	Assistance with the development of web-based learning resources for existing and potential new courses; preparation of practical based exercised using newly acquired OSI data and available GIS software in the recently upgraded Computerised Earth and Environmental Sciences Facility; assistance with small group teaching for group- and problem-based learning practical sessions; assistance with formative assessment of group based projects.	2		213	4-5 (35 groups) 20 (3 groups)	yes	Introduce Remote Sensing in the revamped Geographical Methods (SF) course for 2003/04, to complement existing cartography and GIS teaching. Additional small group sessions are planned. Development of digital spatial datasets for use in revamped JS and SF Geographical Methods courses; developing further and maintaining the one-stop on-line learning resource for undergraduates in the department.
<i>Geography (B)</i>	Research and review (i) innovative methods and exercises for critical writing, (ii) suitable materials from a variety of information sources and media for use as a basis for critical analysis, (iii) appropriate multi-media based communication training exercises, (iv) to provide training on the exercises and materials developed to existing instructors, and (v) co-ordinate the new small group teaching program.		2	178	9-15 (14 groups) 3 (6 groups)	yes	Some aspects of the tutors' packs will be expanded, and will consider the marks available for this component of the course. Caribbean Environment and Development Course:- introduce video editing software earlier in the course: encourage more students to consider producing a radio show rather than a video short; and investigate the software used.
<i>Geology (A)</i>	Designed to enhance written, oral and general study skills of second year students. Focus on transferable skills for 3rd and 4th year students	1		117	various group sizes depending on student year 10-13: 15: and 3-4	yes	Group size will be monitored to ensure that each group remains sufficiently small so as students will continue to benefit from the initiative.
<i>Geology (B)</i>	Aimed at first year students, to develop skills of numeracy, literacy, articulacy and analysis.		1	127	9-12 (12 groups)	yes	Minor adjustments of topic and explanation strategy.
<i>History</i>	Support innovations in the presentation and management of a compulsory courses entitled 'Learning for Historians' with emphasis on harnessing IT and other resources.		2	206	15-18 (12 groups)	yes	Introduce basic IT competency test at the start of the year. Some fine tuning of tasks to ensure that these complement studies in other courses. Further innovations in 2003-04.

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<i>History of Art</i>	To supplement the present first year courses by focusing on small-group teaching where student would have an opportunity to discuss specific artefacts and buildings in the vicinity of College, develop students' own interests, and acquire the confidence and competence to speak about matters artistic an architectural.		1	Junior Freshman Class	8-10	follow up	No proposed change.
<i>Law (A)</i>	To provide first year law students with a grounding in basic legal skills which would in turn assist students in their study of substantive law subjects.	1		100	8-9 (12 groups)	yes	The courses handbook will identify the learning objectives for each seminar. With regard to legal writing specifically, more time spent on style.
<i>Law (B)</i>	To develop the research and writing skills of students in the Junior Freshman programme and to assist students' overall oral presentation skills.		1	104	6-7 (17 groups)	yes	The second term of the 'mooting programme' will focus on the law of contract and performance in the course will constitute 20% of the contract law examination.
<i>Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering</i>	To provide small group learning where the students can be encouraged to generate, discuss, and assess different possibilities where (i) the development of skills in group based decision making in support of individual projects, and (ii) integration of communication, human resource management skills into technical design projects.		1	24	various group sizes depending on student year	to follow	Further work will be carried out to develop web-based courses material to support team-based design in a self-directed learning mode.
<i>Microbiology</i>	(i) To provide training in numeracy with reference to work in a biochemistry/microbiology laboratory, (ii) to encourage articulacy in small tutorial groups, (iii) to provide guidance in making a short oral presentation using PowerPoint slide show, (iv) to provide instruction about the use of internet resources, and (v) to help students develop skills of deduction and problem solving.	1		Junior Sophister class	6	yes	Significant changes were made in 2002-03 and only minor adjustments are anticipated for 2003-04

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<i>Nursing & Midwifery Studies</i>	Enhance the understanding of biological sciences so that it can be applied and extended into the understanding of the care and dysfunction of patients, and to develop transferable skills.	1		198	7-8 (25 groups)	yes	Methodologies will be put in place to ensure full class participation. More sessions are planned developing the use of computer both as a transferable skill and as an alternative method of teaching.
<i>Occupational Therapy</i>	To facilitate small group teaching generally and to progress the School's own local attempt to introduce a Broad Curriculum component to the course. A special introduction to biology course for beginning students with a limited background in science.		1	86	Various group sizes depending on year	yes	Strengthen the Broad Curriculum element with more courses that introduce topics generally outside the orbit of OT's professional training. Courses in Botany / Introductory Horticulture and Introduction to Philosophy are planned.
<i>Pharmacology</i>	Small group learning projects aimed at teaching B.Sc (Pharm) students (i) Medicines Information Retrieval (JS and SF years), (ii) Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics (SF year) and Toxicology (JS year).	1		234	19-20 (12 groups)	yes	Change in the time of delivery and course assignments. Introduce student panel discussions in Toxicology and additional small group sessions dealing with more complex issues in Medicines Information.
<i>Philosophy</i>	To support and supplement the lectures provided in the department's Broad Curriculum course in Value Theory with particular emphasis on structured argument and coherent reasoning for a particular conclusion and to support small group teaching within the department.		1	86	10-18 (6 groups)	to follow	Minor changes to timetable schedule.
<i>Physiology</i>	(i) To enhance students' confidence and ability in communicating orally about Physiology, (ii) to provide additional academic support in areas where the main teaching is in large, shared groups, (iii) to actively foster students' abilities to critically analyse scientific papers, (iv) to support Personal Development programme (run by the Careers Advisory Service) and (v) to support students in developing presentation.		1	24	12 (2 groups)	yes	Timing of lecture-associated workshops: encourage use of more inter-active pedagogic methods: monitor students' skills in using PowerPoint.

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<i>Political Science</i>	A small group seminar programme for final year students dedicated to the analysis of important issues in contemporary politics. The course is designed to promote critical thinking and the ability to deconstruct the issues around problems in politics, as well as the development of verbal and presentation skills.	1	1	35	1 group of 16, and 1 group of 19 students	yes	Course will be made compulsory for all final year single honors politics students , as well as retaining an option for all joint honors students.
<i>Psychiatry</i>	To encourage medical students to look beyond their own discipline and explore the psychology of normal health, coping and resilience. Students are encouraged to take a creative, reflective and personal approach to exploring how aspects of normal human psychology might affect the lives and the presentation of illness in their patients.		1	104	10-14 (12 groups)	yes	The case problems will be made less complex so as to enable greater opportunities for creative problem solving. Reference list for the tutorials will be posted on the department's website.
<i>Psychology (A)</i>	To give students practical experience with exercises relating to research methodology and statistics and to empower student to conduct their own research and to critically evaluate that produced by others.	2		80	15-32 (4 groups)	yes	Some class time will be dedicated to student feedback. Hopefully there will be an opportunity to teach the students how to develop their own computerised experiments.
<i>Psychology (B)</i>	To facilitate online component of the Broad Curriculum Critical Thinking course.		1	approx 200	10 (10 groups)	To follow - part of the BC course evaluation	none
<i>Pure & Applied Mathematics</i>	To help first years with the notion of proof and with the idea of problem solving.	1		75	11 (7 groups)	yes	No proposed change.
<i>Sociology</i>	To advance BC objectives in the teaching of research methods at Junior Sophister level through the integration of a new problem-based learning element within the full-year JS course Researching Society.		1	56	10-12 (4 groups)	yes	A review of the relationship between the BC component of the course and remainder of the Research Methods curriculum, teaching methods and assessment.