

Abstract W1

'It's a lifeline.' (Computing Science student).

Is <http://khios.dcs.gla.ac.uk/writing/> the way forward for writing skills?
Come and see.

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This workshop is aimed at those who, with academic excellence, graduate attributes and student retention in mind, are interested in materials that help students improve their writing skills without involving staff in hours of extra work. The workshop provides the chance to assess Advancing Academic Writing (AAW), which offers subject-specific information, examples and exercises, all generated by real student problems observed in this university. AAW has been successfully trialled, is linked to the Academic Writing Skills Programme and has been adopted by ten (at time of writing) subject areas.

At this workshop, interested academics will:

- experience what using AAW feels like for a tutor marking assignments
- see what using AAW feels like for a student actively following up the feedback
- understand how adopting AAW embeds writing into the learning process in line with new thinking about bridging the gap between Learning and Teaching (which includes writing skills) and academic study (Wingate, 2006)
- discuss the results of three trials, including focus group findings
- exchange views as to the financial viability and practical difficulties of subject-specific on-line writing skills resources, e.g. should writing skills practice be made compulsory for students?

It would be helpful if participants brought, on a piece of paper, a short paragraph of student writing displaying typical problems, both grammatical and structural, from their subject-area. It would also be helpful if participants brought a laptop with wireless internet access.