POSITIVE PEDAGOGY IN HE

THE PRESSURE OF MULTI-DISCIPLINARY STEM STUDIES

Multi-disciplinary courses such as Personalised Medicine also involve cross-disciplinary subjects such as Computer Science.

Students are challenged by the breadth of skills needed in a multi-disciplinary course. They find computer programming stressful.

Teaching and learning needed to change to reduce the stress and anxiety reported by students and therefore improve wellbeing.

#POSITIVEPEDAGOGYHE

CHANGING PROGRAMMING PEDAGOGY

WORKSHOPS & TUTORIALS

Introducing more student-centred active learning approaches was key to our strategy to improve student wellbeing. The first step in the new model was to introduce a basic concepts workshop to learn new programming skills. Students were then given a problem-based learning task to solve in the follow-up tutorial, which was based on the learning in the previous workshop.

ASSESSMENT

Using an open-book practical assessment model meant that students could concentrate on applying the skills to the task at hand rather than being anxious about memorising coding structures and syntax. We targeted student self-confidence with this change.

FEEDBACK

Feedback now used an open feed-forward model via open class discussion. The lecturer assessed the open-book practical tests, compiled an overview to share with the group and used anonymous examples to highlight aspects of strength or development. Students were asked to comment, question and apply understanding to other examples.