



The Teaching-Research Nexus

A guide for academics and policy-makers
in higher education

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Examples from Australian universities

Teaching Research Linked Activity for Small Science Tutorial Groups

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Broad discipline area:

Natural and Physical Sciences

- Microbiology and Immunology

Year level:

- Third year undergraduate

TRN strategy:

- Design learning activities around contemporary research issues

Teaching and learning context:

- Small group classes/tutorials
- Reflective learning
- Group/team work

Brief description of the initiative:

A new initiative was trialled by this Senior Lecturer and his colleague in *Medical and Applied Aspects of Immunology*, which is taken in the third year of the Bachelor of Science or Biomedical Science, with typical enrolments of 60-80 students. This is a second semester subject with a prerequisite successful completion of *Principles in Immunology* in the first semester. They aimed to increase the amount of research work that students are exposed to, and to get them thinking in a critical way about the information presented. Students are divided into groups of approximately eight students within their tutorial groups. The lecturers choose four research papers that are highly relevant to the field, and students are encouraged to discuss the paper in their groups and assess it. The student then presents the paper to the class in scheduled lecture slots. Students learn how research informs the thinking of the discipline. There are plans to use this approach again with future third year students, and to link the chosen papers to the concepts that the students are learning about in lectures.

For further details:

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