

EUROPEAN FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE CONFERENCE 2015

Monday 15th – Wednesday 17th June 2015

University of Bergen and Bergen University college

GUIDANCE FOR PROPOSALS

This is a conference that has a focus on the first year students in higher education because the first experiences are so important to students' successes through all years in Higher education. And what happens in the first year depends so much on what students experience before they start. This interwoven complex picture gives a lot of different action and research possibilities with the one main aim – to help students succeed!

These actions can be implemented by university leaders, teachers, teacher developers, staff in student affairs, staff in academic affairs, researchers, librarians, technicians, students themselves really any member of the higher education community. In fact the EFYE 2015 conference welcomes all groups of students and HE employees that want to share research and ideas, learn from others, and listen to the latest in the field.

So if your aim is student success you are all welcome to submit papers to the EFYE 2015. It will be even better if your proposal can be related to one or more of the following themes:

Institutional development

Kift & Nelson (2005¹) describe a third generation approach to the FYE where the whole institution supports the first year experience, rather than just dedicated teams/individuals.

- Who are the stakeholders in such an approach?
- How do we embed a culture of FYE across the whole institution?
- Is it possible for FYE to be a standalone activity?
- In what ways can/should FYE move from organic development to strategic ownership?
- What 'language'/terminology should be used to promote FYE: retention or success?

The student lifecycle

- How do we prepare students for their new lives at university?
- How do we best deliver new student induction?
- How do we help students make the transition through the year?
- How do we prepare students for subsequent studies?

¹ http://conference.hersda.org.au/2005/pdf/refereed/paper_294.pdf

Guidelines

- Please consider the relevance of your proposal to a European audience.
- Please be as explicit as possible about the content of your session to enable participants to make session selections.
- Please include any evaluation or assessment of your work in your submission even if this is on-going.

Important note

The language of the conference will be English; however please keep in mind that there will be a range of people for whom English is not their first language. We welcome submissions from colleagues around the world.

FORMAT OF SESSIONS

There will be four different session formats:

- workshop;
- paper;
- show and tell; and
- poster.

WORKSHOP

Workshop sessions are intended to include a significant amount of audience activities and participation and are typically 30 or 60 minutes long. Please indicate your preference for length of session on the Abstract Submission Form. We can't guarantee that we can accommodate all requests for length of session as we will need to fit around the programme. In a workshop session, the workshop leader usually introduces their own research, best practice and facilitates activities to explore the topic in more depth with participants.

NEW Session Format: Challenge Workshops

In EFYE 2015 we are interested in workshops based on a challenge faced by your university that you have not yet found solutions to. These workshops can help you meet colleagues that have found solutions to the same challenge, can show you to research or be someone you can discuss alternative solutions with.

It is important that you explain your challenge in necessary detail and maybe include some basic information about your education system that can be a part of the challenge.

What are its goals?

- It highlights a topic relevant to the conference.
- It should be useful for the participants' daily work regarding the first year experience.
- It provides opportunities for significant interaction between participants.
- The participants are given opportunities to express their own points of view.



PAPER

Paper sessions will typically be 30 minutes long and grouped into sets of two. We would encourage papers to include research, evaluation, policy or practice. Colleagues are expected to give 5-10 minutes of this time to discussion or question and answer. Papers should be clearly evidence based and any research presented should already have results that can be reported.

What are its goals?

- To effectively present topics which are relevant to the conference themes.
- To introduce participants to research into and about the first year experience.
- To provide some time for discussion and/or questions.

SHOW AND TELL

This type of session has been used successfully at previous EFYE conferences. It is popular with delegates as it provides the opportunity to hear about a range of initiatives and to ask specific questions of presenters. Presenters are normally grouped into 4 in a 45 minutes lot, or 5 in a one-hour session. Each presenter has 5 minutes and a maximum of 2 slides to introduce their initiative/project. They will also be provided with a display area in the room, where they can have a poster, hand-outs or other material. They could for example bring a laptop to show a short film, a poster summarising their initiative and/or examples of hand-outs that they use etc.

Once each of the presenters has introduced their topic they will go to their display area (which will have been set up before the session). After all presenters have each had their 5 minutes presentation time, session participants can then wander round the displays and talk further with presenters about their work (for 5-10 minutes). The final 10 minutes of the session will be a short facilitated discussion about all the presentations, identifying, where possible, any common themes.

Session structure:

- 20 minutes (4 presenters x 5 minute presentations)
- 10-15 minutes to look round displays
- 10 minutes whole group discussion

Sessions will be facilitated by an experienced facilitator to ensure time keeping.

The length of time available means participants can talk individually with presenters, and can review several interesting projects. The advantage for presenters is that more people will be able to find out about their work and they can use a variety of display materials.

POSTER

It is envisaged that the poster presentations will be informal and it is your choice whether to personally present your poster. Additional materials may be included, space permitting. Please let us know if you would like to bring additional materials on the Abstract Submission Form. There will be prizes for the best posters – good luck!



SUBMITTING YOUR PROPOSALS

Proposals for a session should be submitted to EFYE2015@uib.no by **23 January 2015**. Please use the 'EFYE Abstract Submission' form provided. For an informal discussion of the theme and your submission, please contact amnhs@uib.no

Selection will be by blind peer review, with at least two panel members reading each proposal. The following criteria will be used:

- relevance to the conference title and themes;
- clarity and coherence of the proposal;
- contribution to scholarship and evaluation of the first year experience in higher education
- sufficiently theorised; and
- overall balance of discipline, theme and session type.

PROCEEDINGS

We would like to make the presentations and materials used in sessions available to delegates after the conference. You will have the opportunity to add to slides and materials after the event itself.

TIMETABLE

1 December 2014: Call for papers opens

23 January 2015: Deadline for submissions

27 February 2015: Presenters will be confirmed and the schedule finalised

2 March 2015: Conference registrations open

20 April 2015: End of the early bird conference rate

29 May 2015: Last day of registration

15– 17 June 2015: Conference takes place

We look forward to seeing you in Bergen!

