

Research Informed Education to Enhance Student Learning Experience

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Research informed education enhances student experience by making education current, relevant and providing opportunities for student to solve real world problems. A fully functional and effective medium is needed to facilitate the flow of research into teaching. During this case study linkages between current researches with the Tank Museum at Bovington and Defence Science & Technology Laboratory Ministry of Defence [Z Khan] have been developed with the Education in Design Engineering. First year Design Methods & Projects unit [Z Khan, unit leader] was used as a tool to establish the link between research and education.

This unit is assessed through course work comprising of four distinct projects. Their final project is developed in collaboration with the Tank Museum as live industrial project. Students are given the opportunity to work on topic closely linked to the above researches. Students visit the Tank Museum as part of their field trip, where they spend a day to investigate large vehicles and conduct research. Students have the opportunity to visit again to use library, other learning resources e.g. archives and conduct further research. Students present their work at various stages and submit a final report.

Evidence shows that the student enthusiasm, engagement with the unit and learning experience have enhanced.