

## TEACHING STYLE/LEARNING STYLES...IS THERE A CONNECTION?

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This poster endeavors to answer the question "Does teaching style impact on learning styles over time, and if so, how?".

The proposed on-going research will attempt to study and categorise the teaching styles of tertiary lecturers and tutors (initially within UCOL) and compare these styles to learning styles of students. This research will take place over a three year period and will use the same sample group throughout.

An initial search of the literature indicates that there are "significant differences" (Fleming, 2001) in learning styles of students and lecturers. This research proposes to extend these findings to identify and measure teaching styles and make comparison.

It is the intention of the author to identify the learning styles of a sample of first year Bachelor of Applied Information Systems (BAppIS) students. Identification of these learning styles will be based on the popular VARK dominance test developed by Neil Fleming.

The development of a tool to identify teaching styles will then take place in order to develop a mechanism which will enable comparison of learning and teaching styles. This stage of research will require literature review, observation of and input from lecturers of the BAppIS degree in order to develop an effective and practical tool.

It is intended that the research will assist in measuring how student learning styles change over the course of their degree and if teaching styles influence these. It is envisaged that the findings will assist in enhancing teaching at a tertiary level to best meet the needs of the students and thus improve academic performance and retention.

Currently the research is at the literature review stage with input from lecturing staff in regard to VARK learning styles.

### Reference

Fleming, N. (2001). *VAR K a guide to learning styles*. Retrieved March 4, 2003, from <http://www.vark-learn.com/english/page.asp?p=faq>