

# A large-scale investigation into the relationship between attendance and attainment

Newman Ford, L., Fitzgibbon, K., Lloyd, S. & Thomas, S. (2008) A large-scale investigation into the relationship between attendance and attainment: A study using an innovative, electronic attendance monitoring system. *Studies in Higher Education*. 33: 6.699-717. DOI: 10.1080/03075070802457066

Keywords: attainment, attendance, pathways, phenomena, correlation.

## Who? What? Which?

### What prompted this study and how was it implemented?

Although some previous research indicated that there was a relationship between student attainment and attendance the authors observed inconsistencies noting lack of sufficient sample size and unreliability of paper-based data as likely related issues. They endeavoured to overcome these problems by using an electronic system called UniNanny<sup>®</sup> and a very extensive sample of 22 modules across 4 pathways.

### What interesting observations are recorded in the article?

An analysis of 1968 comparisons between individual students' attendance and their results in assessments indicated positive correlation between the two phenomena across all but one of the 22 modules under consideration 1/3 of students who attended less than 70% the sessions failed their courses.

### What did the survey conclude?

The authors concluded that a strong correlation between attendance and attainment had been clearly demonstrated. They were also satisfied that motivation was an independent phenomenon that did not determine attendance. It was recommended that efforts be made to encourage more consistent attendance on the part of students.