

# MAH Scholarship Blog Guidelines and Style Guide

## Why write for the MAH blog?

The MAH Scholarship Blog offers an opportunity to share your scholarship with colleagues and demonstrate influence within the School.

Benefits of academic blogging include:

- the more informal nature of a blog post means you can use a more creative approach than you typically would when writing an academic article
- blogs represent a way to find an audience for your work, and allow for an easy crossing of disciplinary and/or social borders
- blog posts offer an opportunity to:
  - o make your scholarship more shareable
  - o test an idea, concept, or style of presentation
  - o hone your writing skills by distilling a paper or thought process into a brief, readable post
  - o discuss your teaching practice with colleagues

## Mission statement

### The MAH Scholarship Blog:

- promotes case studies of teaching, learning and scholarship, providing a space for staff to share their practice and situate it within the academic literature and professional standards.
- includes case studies that have been informed by existing research and scholarship as well as those that may be experimental or responsive to classroom experience where engagement with scholarship has grown out of the reflective practice the blog seeks to encourage.
- aims to support staff in recognising how their practice maps onto the UK Professional Standards Framework (UKPSF), which not only reinforces the professionalism of our teaching, learning and scholarship work, but helps colleagues to identify/evidence how they meet criteria for Associate Fellow, Fellow, Senior Fellow and Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.
- functions as a place to celebrate great practice in our School, and offers an opportunity to publish examples of scholarly teaching, or scholarship of teaching and learning, and/or serve as a space for reflecting on work-in-progress which you might want to develop further for national or international dissemination.

### Topics might include:

- action research you have carried out
- a critical reflection on a particular pedagogy or teaching your subject
- an aspect of teaching/learning you have reflected on – perhaps as part of an application to a professional recognition scheme

- a case study or project related to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning on which you have been or are currently working
- summary of practice that led to a teaching award
- a review of a scholarly book/article review
- application of a particular theory of learning
- challenges and/or affordances of online teaching and learning
- summary of a paper you've published related to your teaching
- rationale for teaching and learning material you have produced/published
- experiences of mentoring
- reflections on the process of module/curriculum design
- contribution to national/international conversations or policy related to teaching and learning

## Structure

- Offer a sentence or two as an introduction to your post.
- There are different ways you might like to develop your piece after the introduction. Below are two suggestions:
  1. Contextualise your idea within scholarship literature then explain what you did/ do
  2. Start with what you did/do, then reflect upon its relevance to existing scholarship literature

## Length and Style

Keep it short, punchy, and conversational ... imagine what you would like to read over a cup of coffee! Aim for 600-800 words or 6-10 minutes of video. You are welcome to contribute other formats or create something combining multiple media.

## Format

We would gladly except Vlog or blog contributions. If you have more innovative or experimental ideas about presentation, please get in touch with Viki and Sue first so we can check the University WordPress can manage this. (Emails at the bottom of this document).

Please follow the style guide below.

## Style Guide

Regardless of format, please include the following information in the style below:

Title – Use some Keywords that make it clear what pedagogies /ideas you are engaging with

<Add large image – which you have rights to share>

Image from [XXXX] – Rights/ Attribution required – identify here  
By Full Name, Role(s)  
<Add thumbnail profile image of you>  
A sentence or two written introduction in this font and style.

Then ...

### For blogs:

Please write the body of the text in this font and size. For references, please use hyperlinks rather than a bibliography like this (Author name Date). The first few paragraphs could be contextual – grounding your case study within existing scholarship. Where possible breakdown the text into small paragraphs or:

- 1) Numbered or
- Bullet points

You can include images, please use the font below for attribution which could go below the image.

Please ensure you include alt text for your image.

### For video:

Please check your audio is clear before submitting.

Please upload the video (unlisted) to YouTube and share it with us via link.

Then add a short paragraph with hyperlinked links to any scholarly references or resources you mentioned after the video.

### For every format – at the end:

Please copy and paste the following to the end of your post and highlight each of the areas of the UK Professional Standards Framework which most apply to your post in bold and italics:

**Using the Professional Standards Framework (PSF) for teaching and supporting learning in higher education 2023 to ensure good practice and excellent student experience. This teaching practice outlined in this blog post is informed by the highlighted areas:**

#### **Areas of Activity**

- A1 design and plan learning activities and/or programmes
- A2 teach and/or support learning through appropriate approaches and environments
- A3 assess and give feedback for learning
- A4 support and guide learners
- A5 enhance practice through own continuing professional development

### **Core Knowledge**

- K1 how learners learn, generally and within specific subjects
- K2 approaches to teaching and/or supporting learning, appropriate for subjects and level of study
- K3 critical evaluation as a basis for effective practice
- K4 appropriate use of digital and/or other technologies, and resources for learning
- K5 requirements for quality assurance and enhancement, and their implications for practice

### **Professional Values**

- V1 respect individual learners and diverse groups of learners
- V2 promote engagement in learning and equity of opportunity for all to reach their potential
- V3 use scholarship, or research, or professional learning, or other evidence-informed approaches as a basis for effective practice
- V4 respond to the wider context in which higher education operates, recognising implications for practice
- V5 collaborate with others to enhance practice

## **How to Submit**

Email your post to Sue at [S.Robbins@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:S.Robbins@sussex.ac.uk)

## **Review Process**

Posts will undergo a collegial peer review before being accepted for publication. This process is not designed to 'assess' your post, but aims to be supportive. We welcome volunteers to join the peer-review board, please get in touch above if interested. Once your post is live, colleagues will be encouraged to engage with your post via the comments box. We strongly encourage you to comment on others' posts too.