Open Door Teacher

Dr Heather Lonsdale
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Heather came to Curtin University in 2014 as a teaching-focused lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, after 10 years of tutoring and lecturing mathematics at The University of Melbourne. She has a particular interest in service teaching, and engaging these students with mathematics that they “have” to do. An important focus in her teaching is developing students’ communication skills, which are often neglected in mathematics, and these are aided by the active whiteboard tutorials and workshops, where students explain problems to each other as they solve them in groups. Heather is also interested in developing different assessment methods for mathematics, and in particular has a focus on nested assignments with a formal draft process for formative feedback, as well as assessing students’ oral communication and explanation skills.

Specialty areas of teaching
Group work and active learning

Description of teaching to showcase to others
Heather showcases her student ‘Group work whiteboard tutorial’ where students work in groups up at whiteboards around the room. Students are engaged in active learning that is also physically active, which helps them collaborate more easily. The group-based class is designed to help students communicate and understand the problem solving process, rather than focus on the answer.

Open Door availability

Unit: Mathematics 2
Times Available: Wednesday 3-5pm or 5-6pm, Thursday 8-10am or 3-5pm, Friday 3-5pm
Dates Available: any teaching week
Location of Session: 300.214 (Friday), 405.204 (Thursday 8-10am), 216.117 (all other times)
Maximum available visitor number: 2
Available for consultation: Directly before and after these sessions, and can also be negotiated

Learn more about Heather’s research interests and publications at:

Please contact Heather at Heather.Lonsdale@curtin.edu.au to request an Open Door session