UNIT 3

University Learning & Teaching Course

Negotiated Project
University Learning and Teaching
Handbook Unit 3

**Negotiated Project**

**Version history**
Previously Introduction to Tertiary Teaching (ITT)

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What is a negotiated project?
The Negotiated Project explores the nexus between teaching, learning, assessment and evaluation in a specific field of tertiary education. You negotiate the topic, objectives and process of the study with the ULT Unit 3 Coordinator and undertake the project independently.

After discussion with the ULT Unit 3 Coordinator, your project is formalised as a learning agreement between you and the Coordinator. The agreement specifies what you will study and how, the outcomes you will achieve and the resources and support you will need.

Why a negotiated project?
The ULT aims to support you in developing knowledge, skills and attitudes for effective tertiary teaching. We recognise that each ULT participant has their own particular needs and interests. There are many influences, areas of specialisation and discipline-specific issues within the field of tertiary education. The project makes provision for your individual higher education interests, by enabling you to study a topic not formally covered by the ULT, to cover a topic in greater depth or to develop a useful resource with an academic rationale.

How much work is involved?
The workload is as expected for two credit points within an eight credit point subject, 2000 words.

Choosing a topic
Choose a topic through which you can explore the nexus between teaching, learning, evaluation and assessment in higher education. For example, if you are interested in peer assessment of learning, you might work in that area in depth, researching peer assessment, designing an assessment task for a subject, implementing it and evaluating its effectiveness for student learning.

Choosing a process and product
Choose a relevant process and product to achieve your learning outcomes. We recommend that you consider a project that might contribute to a future conference paper or journal article. You might choose to carry out a small study within one of your subjects, or perhaps develop teaching materials, for example:

- carry out an investigation into student learning
- create a teaching resource such as a handbook or video
- carry out an experimental study into the effectiveness of a new teaching resource
- carry out a peer review project
- develop a unit of work within a course
- design a web-based teaching resource
- design an e-learning environment

If your product is a resource, such as a teaching handbook, you must include a written rationale referring to the educational research and thinking behind the package.
Planning and organising

The agreement
Define the scope of the project using the Learning Agreement on pp. 5–6 and discuss it with the ULT or LTTP Coordinator. The contract should include:

- your aim (see below)
- your expected learning outcomes (see below)
- the process
- the product
- your timetable
- the resources and materials you will require and their availability
- your provisional reading list (if known) indicating major articles, books, reports to be read for the contract
- the support you require from the Coordinator (see following).

The aim
State the general purpose of your project, for example to:

- examine peer assessment of teaching in depth, develop and evaluate an assessment task; or
- develop the skills needed to develop and design flexible learning packages; or
- map the effectiveness of problem-based learning in engineering at three Universities.

The outcomes
State the specific learning outcomes of your project in terms of the skills, knowledge and attitudes you will have achieved and the product or resource you will have produced.

Example 1 – On completion of the project I will have:

- analysed the range of available peer assessment strategies
- designed and implemented a peer assessment strategy in ADSC201
- evaluated the effectiveness of the strategy for supporting and assessing student learning

Example 2 – On completion of the project I will have:

- designed and produced a self-study handbook on wind power for ENGV305; and
- evaluated the usefulness of the handbook for student learning; and
- written a 1,000 word paper (a) reporting on its effectiveness and (b) explaining the rationale behind the design of the handbook with reference to the literature on self-study resources and approaches to learning.

Support
The Coordinator, or another relevant academic, will undertake to fulfil your reasonable requirements as part of the contract. Indicate what you expect the Coordinator to do, for example, comment on draft 1, advise on the reading list, observe a teaching session, provide
written feedback on progress at a certain point.

**Assessment**  
Satisfactory completion depends on your own and the Coordinator’s assessment according to your achievement of the stated outcomes. You are encouraged to seek comment from a peer, eg, program head, before handing in your completed project report. If there is a discrepancy between your self-assessment and the Coordinator’s assessment the Coordinator will discuss this with you before a final decision is reached. Re-submission after feedback is accepted.

**Readings**  
If you are interested in the methodology of Independent Study Projects the following texts may be useful. Those marked * are available on loan from the ULT resource shelf in the Academic Development Unit. University library catalogue numbers are listed.

Unit 3:
Negotiated Project – Learning Agreement

Name ..........................................................................................................................

Topic ..........................................................................................................................

Learning outcomes

Product

Process

Coordinator support required

Resources, materials and other requirements

Provisional reading list

Timetable

Prior to submission I will seek comment on my report from the following peer

Participant signature .................................................................

Coordinator signature ........................................ Date .........................