

The Project Timetable

The stages in the project

This project will last for three years. The stages in the project will be:

1. Identification of suitable first-year modules in each of the partner universities (before project start date).
2. Development of strategies for teachers and students to assess variation in understanding of these concepts which are embedded in the current work of the modules (Year 1).
3. Gathering baseline data (Year 1) to enable 'before' and 'after' comparison.
4. Developing strategies for learning and teaching threshold concepts (Year 1/2).
5. Evaluation of these strategies and their impact on learning and teaching as reflected in students' understanding of the identified threshold concepts (Year 2/3). Strategies may be trialled in the partner and cascade institutions.
6. Development of proposals for sequencing content within these modules (Year 2/3).
7. Revision of learning and teaching strategies and final evaluation (Year 3).
8. Production of briefing documents with exemplar strategies for identifying threshold concepts, adapting teaching to promote learning and suggestions for staff development (Year 2/3).

Dissemination and Continuation

We aim to disseminate through progressive involvement of lecturers in economics in other institutions and colleagues in other disciplines. We will raise awareness of the project through:

- A dedicated web site to be hosted at Staffordshire University and linked to the LTSN web site and web sites in partner institutions. The web site will include a discussion board to gather suggestions from colleagues in other institutions.
- Workshops for colleagues in partner institutions, cascade institutions and colleagues elsewhere through the LTSN for Economics.

The deliverables from the project will include tools for diagnostic assessment and resources and strategies for developing students' understanding of threshold concepts. These deliverables will be the focus of dissemination working initially through the cascade institutions. They will also be published in forms that will support the continuation of the strategies developed through the project.