



First Year Student Experience of a Learning Skills Module: *Information to drive Improvements*

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Learning-to-Learn at Third Level Module

Background:

❑ Drivers for change:

- Learning skills deficit impacting students throughout their college years
- First Year Retention Issues

❑ Introduced as a module for all the first year students in ITT in September 2012

❑ Developed by an in-house multidisciplinary team

❑ Based on Irish & international examples of learning skills modules

Module Aims:

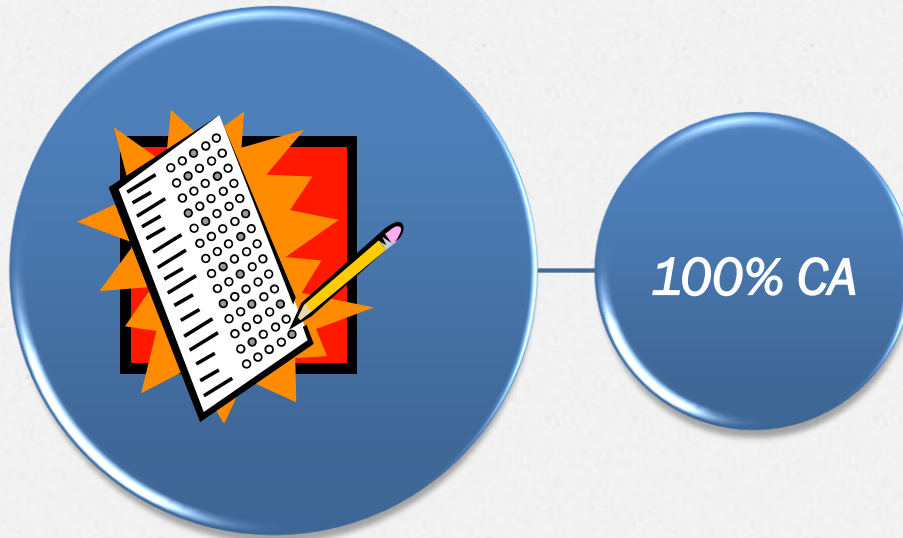
- ❖ To help students adapt to a third level educational environment
- ❖ To encourage students to become reflective, independent learners

How?

***Theory &
practice of:***

- Active learning strategies
- Study skills
- Group work
- Communication skills
- Self-management & Personal Development
- Information Skills
- Academic writing

Assessment of the Module



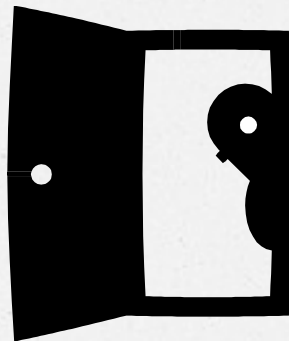
- *Group Project*
- *In-class writing skills exam*
- *Learning Journal – Reflective entries and in-class use*

Context of this Study

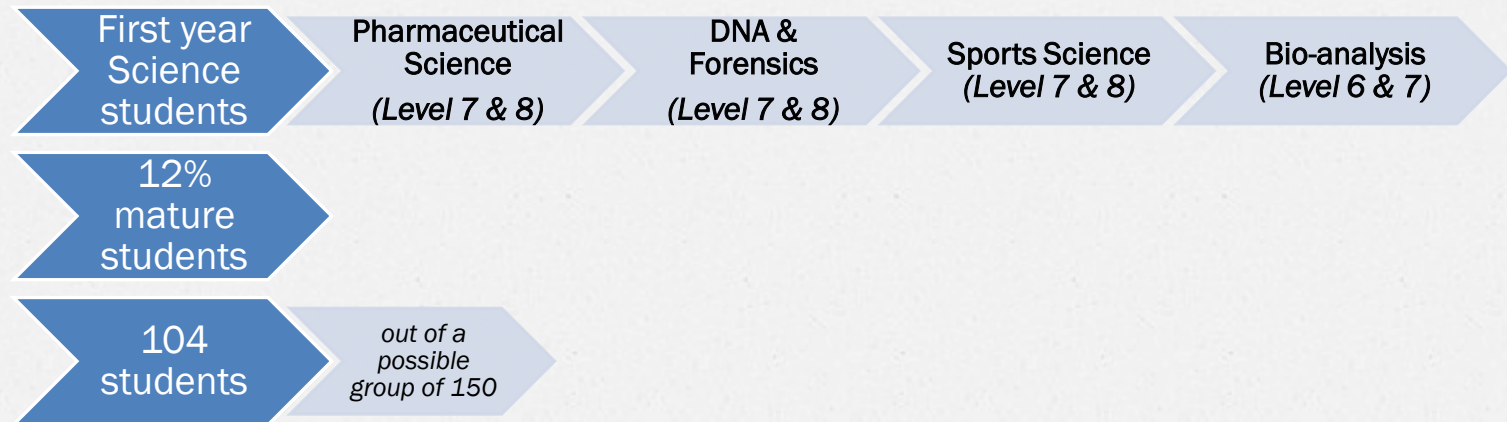
- ❖ Finding out if **content & delivery** were fit-for-purpose

Why?

- To improve delivery in 2013 & beyond

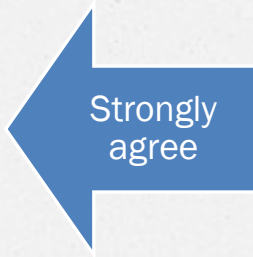


Students surveyed



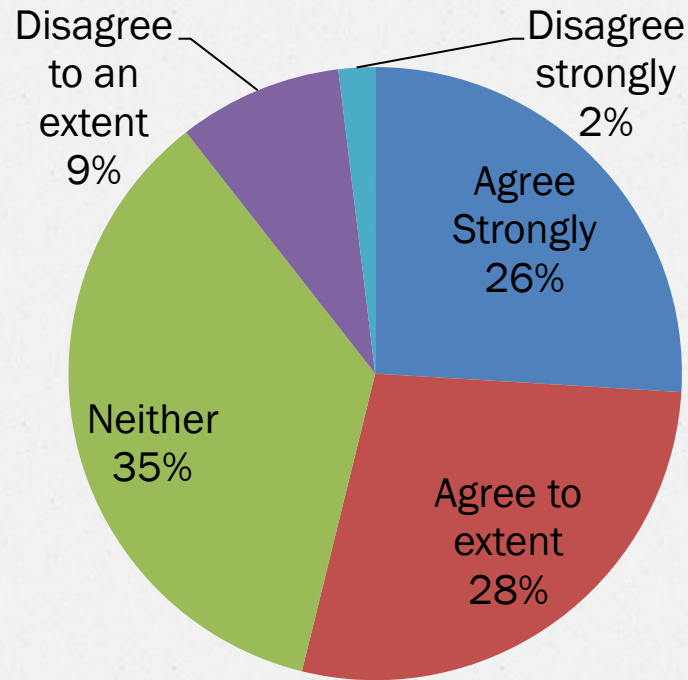
Methodology

1. Survey of students (anonymous)



2. *Additional information from reflective journal entries*

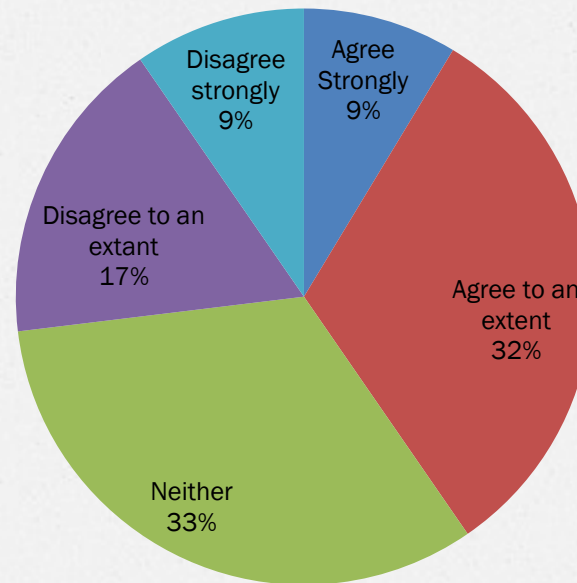
Student Perception of the need for the module



Statement: *“I do not need L2L classes because I already know how to study”*

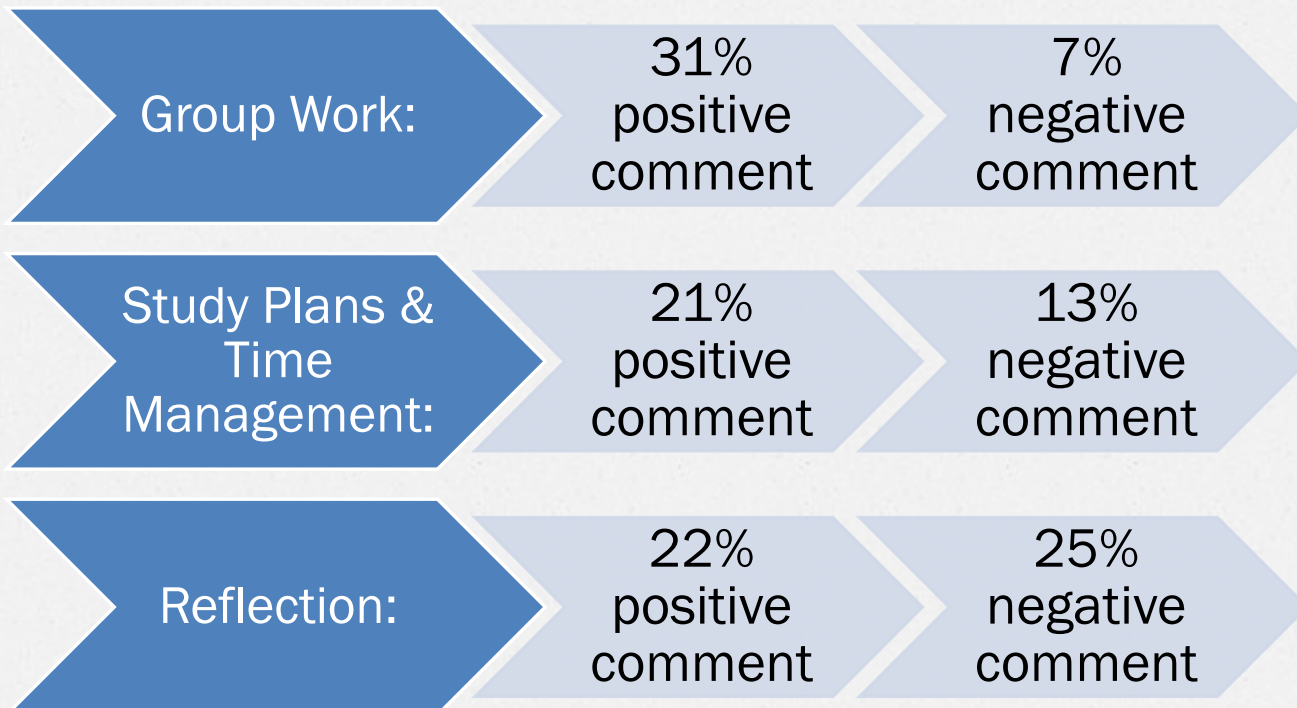
Why did over the half the students surveyed think they did not need such a module?

Understanding the Difference between 2nd & 3rd Level



Statement: "L2L classes helped me understand the difference between learning at 2nd & 3rd level"

Comments on what was useful



Actions:
Changes to Module
Content & Delivery

Implemented Winter Semester 2013

Contextualisation:

- ❑ Connection between ability to reflect and
 1. Performance in assessments
 2. Performance at job interview
- ❑ In-class exercises on reading skills :
 - Use of notes from theory modules
 - Use of discipline-specific articles of interest

Implemented Winter Semester 2013

Change in timing:

- ❑ Group project Week 7 instead of Week 4 i.e. once information sourcing and referencing has been fully covered
- ❑ Assessment information covered earlier in term:
 - ❑ GPA calculation exercise
 - ❑ How to structure a lab report

*Is the Learning-to-Learn
module delivering what
students need?*