

## **Broadening students' experience of mathematics in practice**

Workshop at Sheffield Hallam University, Wednesday 26th April 2017 from 10am-3pm.

This workshop will provide a forum for discussion of teaching that aims to expose students to the idea that mathematics is more than they think it is based on A-level experience. Students are often surprised by maths that isn't simply performing of techniques and application to exercises similar to those taught, assessed by exams. Approaches to dissuade them of this view of maths might include opportunities to apply mathematics in novel contexts or situations which are not mathematically well-defined, as well as working to take their learning further than curriculum content alone through deep explorations or making links across topics. This is especially timely, as the National Student Survey will include for the first time in 2017 new questions related to this, in which students are asked to agree or disagree with the statements:

- my course has provided me with opportunities to explore ideas or concepts in depth;
- my course has provided me with opportunities to bring information and ideas together from different topics;
- my course has provided me with opportunities to apply what I have learnt.

These questions encourage us to think about whether our courses are really encouraging students to explore mathematical topics in depth through independent study, to apply mathematics in unfamiliar scenarios and to draw links between different topics. These are all areas where traditionally students struggle, yet they are part of what makes a professional mathematician work well in their chosen field.

Attendance is free. To register to attend, please email [p.rowlett@shu.ac.uk](mailto:p.rowlett@shu.ac.uk) stating any dietary or access requirements.

### **Schedule:**

10.00	Registration.
10.30	Welcome, Peter Rowlett.
10.40	'Moving beyond techniques to applying maths in novel modelling scenarios', Hannah Bartholomew and Peter Rowlett (Sheffield Hallam University).
11.15	Break.
11.30	'Challenging students to go further than the curriculum in OR and Data Analytics', Noel-Ann Bradshaw (University of Greenwich).
12.05	Lunch.
13.25	'Module delivery and assessment in partnership with employers', Ewan Russell (Keele University).
14.00	Break.
14.20	'Mathematical Modelling and Problem Solving: A Journey from Leeds to Birmingham!', Michael Grove (University of Birmingham).
14.55	Closing remarks.
15.00	Close.

**This workshop is supported by  
an Education Grant from the  
Institute of Mathematics and its Applications.**