

Supporting Students through Peer Study Group in ECO1031 Data Analytics

UROS Research Project by Ryan Chapman & Rachel Justice (with support from Dr Erkan Demirbas)

Extra support for students:

Lectures and seminars often leave students with a sense of disconnect and no way of accessing support. Basic principles and techniques are described but students may not be able to apply these to real-world scenarios.

Benefits of Peer Study Group:

Our peer support project was created with the mission of bridging this gap between what is taught and what is taken on board. It is a student-led scheme which hopes to improve the learning experience for students, especially those who may not have completed level 3 qualifications in subjects such as mathematics and economics, to ensure they are not unfairly disadvantaged when undertaking assessments for their degrees. We hope to foster a positive working environment where students can feel comfortable in working together and asking for help where required.

Our Objectives:

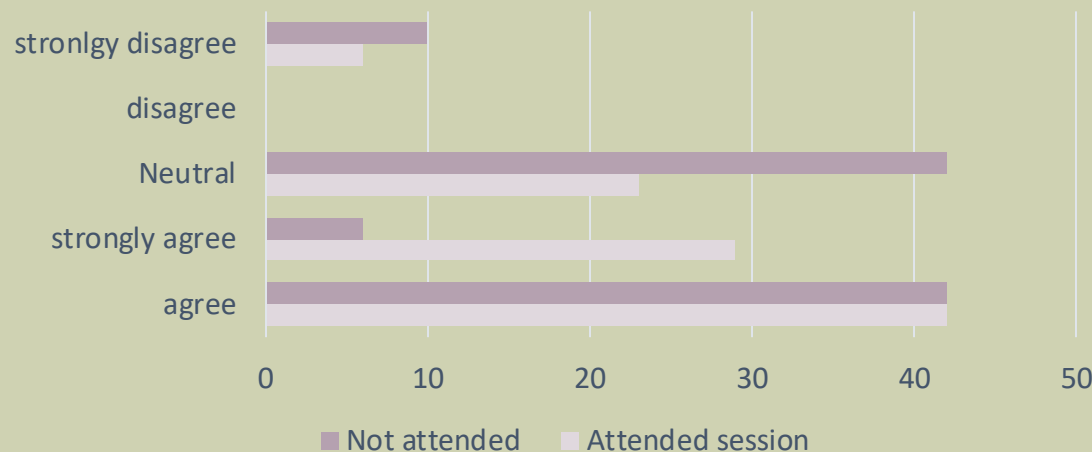
- 1) Enhance Student Performance
 - a. Strengthening understanding for those leading the sessions and those attending.
 - b. Increasing attainment for assignments in these mathematical modules.
- 2) Promote Collaboration across different students within the business school e.g. PhD students supporting first year students.
- 3) Increase Student Engagement, both in timetabled sessions and during personal study.
- 4) Contribute to the 'One Community' spirit at the University of Lincoln – One of the key factors which sets our university apart and convinces prospective students to enrol.

Gaining Recognition:

- We promoted our project through the University Siren Radio Station. This was useful in ensuring students were aware of the support available to them and could persuade mentors to sign up also.
- In addition, we published an article on the Economics Network, to increase awareness outside of our university of our successes with the scheme and hopefully convince more universities to increase their out-of-hours support.
- **Won ONE COMMUNITY Award.**

Graphs and Findings:

THE PEER STUDY GROUP STRONGLY CONTRIBUTES TO THE ONE COMMUNITY SPIRIT AT THE UNIVERSITY



	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
It helped me prepare for Test 1	3	4	0	0	0
The support session improved my confidence	3	4	0	0	0
The support team members were effective	6	1	0	0	0

Wider Implementation:

- We would love to see other modules and departments adopting similar measures to help students, as we believe this can set our university apart from others and make a genuine impact to both the confidence and performance of those giving and receiving assistance. Finance and Marketing modules could particularly benefit from these as the assessments proved to be difficult for many. We would have been happy to provide sessions on skills such as video production, voiceover recording, and graphical presentation; all skills which are highly valuable in the modern workplace.
- We will commence peer support sessions this term in collaboration with colleagues from the University Campus Doncaster.

Our Team:



From the data we have collected, we can conclude that students felt more supported in their studies, which helped to improve their understanding and confidence in ECO1032 and ECO1031. Our report shows that our initiative significantly contributes to the university of Lincoln's 'One Community' Spirit by bringing together students from across the business school. Although we have faced challenges with maintaining engagement as not all students are willing to attend out-of-hours sessions, we have been successful in increasing attainment and confidence of those who did attend; and hope to continue to do so moving forward.

Student Researcher: Rachel Justice and Ryan Chapman

Supervisor: Dr Erkan Demirbas

