

Inclusive Practice Conference 2020

Keynote by Anne Emerson

Hello. I'm Anne Emerson from the School of Education, where I work on the MA Special and Inclusive Education.

At the conference, I will be focusing on inclusive assessment. My interpretation of this term is designing assessment that enables students to demonstrate their ability to meet learning outcomes in a way that best suits their strengths. I believe that this needs to sit alongside the other current challenges of making assessment authentic, i.e. something that practices the skills students will need in the workplace, designing assessments that encourage deep learning and which measure skill rather than knowledge acquisition, where appropriate, and thereby challenging the essay mill industry.

At the conference, I will present current thinking in relation to assessment, review research and practice, make idealistic recommendations, and then consider realities. Within my own school, we have a range of assessment practices and views of assessment. Across the university, this is wider still.

My colleague, Judy Fessey, and I are currently gathering research data on this and will report on preliminary findings. In our view, we need to move away from recommending reasonable adjustments for students. Our preferred direction is much more of an inclusion by design model, putting our focus on assessments which do not set out to discriminate between students, but to embed assessment as part of learning for the future.