

The University of Queensland Higher Education Academy Fellowship

PROFESSOR MICHAEL DRINKWATER

“ I really value my HEA Fellowship because it gives me official recognition of the training, mentoring, and experience I have in university education. The process of the fellowship application really helped me evaluate my teaching portfolio and has created some great ideas for new projects. ”

School of Mathematics and Physics
Faculty of Science

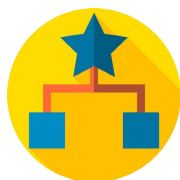
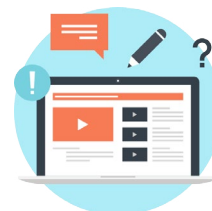


Programs

- UQ teaching grants: Semant – a tool for rapid analysis of student pre-reading quiz short answers
- UQ teaching fellowship: the use of evidence-based teaching practice in the Bachelor of Science

My favourite teaching tools

- Semant
- A tablet computer with stylus
- Personal response devices (“clickers”)
- Piazza discussion board



Expertise

Astronomy:
Galaxy formation
Cosmology
Survey design

Teaching and Learning:
Active learning
Measurement of evidence-based teaching practice

Memorable teaching moment

The first time I ever used clickers in a class I discovered that the students didn't understand a vital concept I had been using for several lectures. I had been wasting everyone's time and I didn't know it! I'll never go back to assuming the students understand something when I can do a simple test.

Part of the advantage of clickers is that students are no longer embarrassed to admit they are wrong: one student told me clickers are “a wonderful solution to the problem of feeling too insecure to raise your hand when a multiple-choice question is answered.”