

SUPPORTING THE TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITH GEN AI-FACILITATED DIALOGIC ACTIVITIES



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Introduction

- **Intended project outcome:** Modelling GenAI for thinking. Increasing support for reflection on teaching
- Rethinking SoTL for the Age of GenAI: Diffracted, Entangled and Human (Mills *et al* 2025)
- **Conference themes:** A modern & relevant education / Driving transformation & capacity to improve

APP TE

Academic and Professional Pathway for Teaching Excellence

10 Years old; the first APP TE cohort ran in 2016-17

Fellowships of the Higher Education Academy awarded

448

146 Total participants enrolled on the course today

First-time pass rate for submissions in 2025-26

92%

3
cohorts
per year

3
workshops
per cohort

~20
learners
per cohort

A participant's typical month on APP TE:



Activity Design

- APP TE has a Moodle site with a new unit each month
- For each of months 1-3 we are incorporating prompts for participants to use with GenAI to make it act as a thinking / reflective dialogue partner
- Testing multiple tools (NebulaOne)
- Nuancing the prompts – GPT just chunked out 50+ questions at once on first attempt

Implementation

“I am an assistant professor teaching at a UK university. Help me to develop my reflective teaching practice by acting as a dialogue partner. Ask me questions that will prompt me to reflect on the reasoning and values behind my teaching, and what I think and feel when I am teaching.

I'd like you to help me explore the concept of “teaching excellence”, and my understanding of what it means for me and my discipline, which is [INSERT DISCIPLINE]. You should do this by giving me one question at a time, and responding with new questions in light of my responses, to either probe deeper or move on to another area for discussion.

Implementation

In particular, help me to understand:

- How has my prior experience as a learner affected my understanding of what good teaching looks like?
- How might my students conceptualise good teaching, and how might that differ from my understanding?
- To what extent does my teaching currently reflect my conception of high quality teaching, and what steps might I take to enhance my teaching?
- What external benchmarks or measures of quality are relevant to my teaching context, and how should they be reflected in my teaching?"

Evaluation

- Participants will be self-selecting volunteers from APP TE;
- Anonymous online questionnaire for each activity;
- Some common questions, some unique to each activity;
- Explore how they have engaged with the activity, how they feel about it, what impact they think it will have on their work;
- Thematically analysed using a flexible, reflexive approach, in line with (Braun and Clarke 2019).