

# The Impact and Dissemination of Research-Based Learning

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- The Reinvention Centre for Undergraduate Research is based at the University of Warwick and Oxford Brookes University.
- The Centre puts research at the heart of undergraduate education. This focus on research is not simply a matter of the way in which a lecturer's research informs their teaching; but, rather, on a much broader appreciation of the relationship between teaching and research. At the core of this broader approach is the understanding that undergraduate learning is enhanced through active engagement in research, in collaboration with other students and their teachers. Our fundamental aim, therefore, is to 'reinvent' the undergraduate curriculum.

## We fund Academic Fellowships for staff to redesign their undergraduate modules in order to increase the research content

"They are much more engaged with the curriculum. Two students have said that this module has completely turned them around in a way that they have never experienced in this institution ... it has been an incredible learning experience. The class work is good, in the 2.1 range, but the presentations are again mind blowing. As a form of professional development it has been a really excellent space for me to take some risks and see how they go. The Reinvention Centre, because it has got the brief that you can experiment and try new things, gives us the energy to feed that back all the way through the Sociology department."  
(Academic Fellow in Sociology)

## We fund modules which enable undergraduates to carry out research in the community within the curriculum



A student participant in the Designing Out Crime project, which forms part of the architectural psychology module run by Byron Mikellides at Brookes, presenting her research poster and receiving a certificate from Superintendent James Trotman, Head of Thames Valley Police for Oxford City

"The key issue is that students feel as if they own the projects and the research and to use it as they see fit ... with this work they are released from that constraint and take ownership of the whole process so that it is not just research but a whole learning experience ... it's life changing stuff ... At the department level it is beginning to have a real impact, colleagues can see there is a sense of real exposure to real things that are happening and that they are already teaching about."  
(Academic Fellow in Law)

"The results were extremely pleasing, suggesting that our aim of putting learning through practical experience at the front end of the undergraduate learning experience had largely succeeded."  
(Academic Fellow in Chemistry)



Dr Mike Neary, Founding Director of the Reinvention Centre, meeting Chemistry students taking a Reinvented undergraduate module



Reinvention Centre Academic Fellows' Conference

## We hosted Student as Producer: Reinventing the Undergraduate Curriculum, an international conference on research-based learning, in September 2007



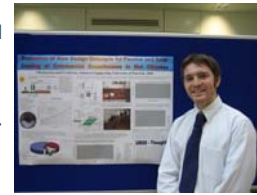
Caroline Gibson, Journal Manager, launching the Reinvention Journal

Inside the conference marquee

Prof. Steve Fuller, Sociology Dept, Warwick, giving his keynote speech

## We fund undergraduate students to carry out research projects

"The Reinvention Centre had a big impact on my student experience. The project gave me motivation and sparked my interest and was really a great experience. It galvanised me. It was really good in terms of research skills for the dissertation that I am writing this year, so on the whole it had a very positive impact. If it weren't for things like the Reinvention Centre I'm not saying that university would not have been good but it wouldn't have been half so good."  
(Funded undergraduate student)



Funding recipient presenting his research poster

## We fund staff and students to work together collaboratively on research projects



## We disseminate the results of our work throughout the HE sector and in the wider community



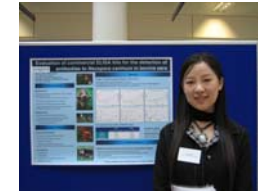
Centre publications, publicity materials, etc.



Funding recipient presenting his research poster

"It was terrific, something I really enjoyed. The work of research is considerable, it gave you an insight of research, its limits and possibilities. It helped me build a lot more confidence and self esteem as an academic researcher, it put me at a different level."  
(Funded undergraduate student)

"The project provided me with the opportunity for the hardest and most rewarding work I have ever experienced. The outcome that is by far the most important to me is my own learning about what research can mean. I have realised that the fun part about research is not finding data to fit into preconceived plans, but rather to find the unexpected. Due to this project I am now doing my PhD."  
(Funded undergraduate student)



Funding recipient presenting her research poster

## We redesign the spaces within which students learn



The Reinvention Centre at Brookes (social learning space at Oxford Brookes)



The Reinvention Centre at Westwood (social teaching space at Warwick)



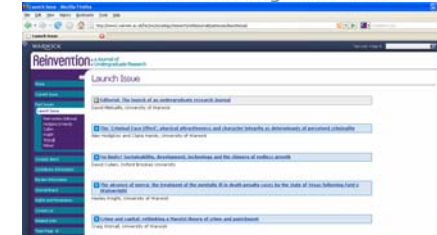
## We produce *Reinvention: a Journal of Undergraduate Research*, an online peer-reviewed journal which showcases high-quality undergraduate research.

"I have learnt the importance of student research and consequently, how important it is to have the Reinvention Journal; where students can publicise high-quality research."  
(Student Subject Editor)

"Being able to discuss articles and the peer-review process with my academic supervisor has provided me with the opportunity to interact with the professors of my department on a more personal level."  
(Student Subject Editor)

"Encouraging submissions to the journal has put me in closer contact with the rest of the student body, especially outside of my year and course."  
(Student Subject Editor)

## Reinvention: a Journal of Undergraduate Research



The journal website

[www.warwick.ac.uk/go/reinventionjournal](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/reinventionjournal)

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The Reinvention Centre  
For Undergraduate Research