



Peer Assisted Learning



✔ WHAT IS IT?

Peer assisted learning (PAL), also known as Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) or Supplemental Instruction (SI), is about creating an environment where students can gain the best possible learning experience regardless of academic ability. It is a student-centred learning model which focuses on providing formative self- and peer assessment practice with immediate feedback (Miller, Oldfield, & Murtagh, 2006). PASS usually consists of weekly, hour-long interactive study sessions for small groups of first year students whose learning is facilitated by peer group leaders. The leaders are enthusiastic students who have achieved high grades and can demonstrate effective interpersonal skills. Face-to-face sessions can also be supplemented by the use of pre-recorded videos in which peers explain problems that relate to the course material.

✔ WHY USE IT?

- ✚ PAL helps students build up their confidence and self-esteem. This develops the ability to master course concepts, while improving study and cognitive skills.
- ✚ Student leaders have an opportunity to develop a range of skills including group and team leadership and communication skills useful for other studies and professional situations.
- ✚ Faculty involved in PASS can receive regular feedback on how course content is being received by learners, and benefit from a reduced need for student consultation.
- ✚ For the institution, it is possible to target difficult courses and provide practical support for staff and students. The scheme helps to improve student performance and success across the ability range and can do more than simply reduce 'failure' rates. It has the potential to break down barriers between year groups and to develop an effective and successful learning community.

✔ HOW DO I DO IT?

The role of the PASS student leader is to provide structure to the study session, not to re-lecture or introduce new material. The leader is a "model student" who shows how successful students think about and process the course content. Collaborative learning is an important strategy since it helps students to empower themselves rather than remain dependent as they might in traditional tutoring. Following factors to be considered are Roles, Responsibilities and Leadership skills, Learning principles, Planning and conducting sessions & Mentoring

✔ WHAT IF I WANT MORE?

- ✚ [Peer Assisted Study Sessions \(Economics\) \(youtube.com\)](#) (Peer Assisted Study Sessions [video 3:04] UQ School of Economics)
- ✚ [What is Peer Assisted Learning? \(youtube.com\)](#) What is Peer assisted Learning? [video 4:46] Peer Support Bath University Student Union
- ✚ [Home | Advance HE \(advance-he.ac.uk\)](#) Mapping student-led peer learning in the UK , Higher Education Academy