



MICROSOFT INNOVATIVE EDUCATOR EXPERT 2024



Digital Excellence Impact Case Studies

2023/2024

Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert

Ian Evans





Ian Evans
Student Success
Tutor
I.Evans@tees.ac.uk

“The MIEE accreditation gives me access to a huge range of resources and experts.”

Ian Evans

Introduction and Background

I work as a student success tutor and I'm part of a small team that sits within SLAR who are responsible for identifying and working with students who are at risk of disengagement to give them all the support that they need to reengage and succeed. I specialise in Numeracy, so I work with several schools and course teams.

I previously held the Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert (MIEE) accreditation several years ago in a teaching role but became aware of my eligibility to reapply during a team meeting. My previous accreditation gave me access to a huge range of resources and experts, and I was eager to get involved once more.

After taking a traditional secondary maths teacher training route, I spent most of my career holding various teaching and management posts within Further Education. Whilst Maths is my specialist subject, in true FE fashion I've taught a wide variety of subjects and courses. Finally wanting to take the step into HE, I took a job as a Student Success Tutor where I could once more use my maths specialism to help students remove the barriers that maths options bring to their subject.

Though my role has me working with students from a range of programmes across all schools, I have predominantly supported students using SPSS for their quantitative dissertations in subjects such as Psychology, as well as supporting drug calculations within nursing degrees. Both represent subjects that attract students who might not have the confidence in maths we see in Engineering or Computing degrees.

My MIEE Journey

I am a big advocate of digital technologies to enhance learning, and after working towards my Microsoft and Adobe certifications last year, I set myself the goal of reclaiming my MIEE status.

Although I initially found this challenging, due to the requirement to attach an artefact, traditionally a piece of student's work, that my implementation of innovative education has supported. As my role involved building students' skills, rather than necessarily directly impacting student's work, finding a piece of work that represented my input was a little more challenging than last time. In my case, I agreed with a student to share part of their dissertation which was the result of several meetings and interactive resources that I had developed.

Project Overview and Impact

My MIEE application featured a range of learning technologies that I used to develop resources for students – from digital video content that now sits on Libguides, to interactive dosage questioning tasks for nurses. I also included the development of a database that we use in Student Success to share details of one-to-one sessions and other student interventions, which has been instrumental in reducing the workload of staff recording and reading session information, as well as the reporting of the effectiveness of our sessions.

“The MIEE programme is both a celebration and recognition of the commitment we have, but also an incredible opportunity to hear from and collaborate with likemind individuals.”

Ian Evans

The projects contained in my MIEE application have had an enormous effect on the students that I work with, whether it be student nurses who need to build confidence in the numeracy around drug doses, or Psychology students needing to make sense of statistical tests and p-values, I have not only helped students pass assignments but also increased their confidence in using numeracy – something that has been the cause of much anxiety in their programme.

The work streamlining our reporting process has allowed us to better respond to the changing needs of our students and encouraged the Student Success Programme to evolve as it has grown to better support staff and students across the university.

Using the Benefits of the MIEE

MIEEs are an active community, with a Teams site, Facebook group and more, I plan to make the most of the links I can create with other innovative educators around the world, to see what they are doing to support numeracy and maths anxiety and to share what I've done to support students. In addition, MIEEs get access to the newest Microsoft tips and tools, to encourage further innovation moving forward.

Lessons Learned and Future Plans:

The main lesson learned is to put yourself forward for these things – most of us are innovative in the way we support students and have a lot to offer. The MIEE programme is both a celebration and recognition of the commitment we have, but also an incredible opportunity to hear from and collaborate with like-minded individuals. I hope that

I'm able to use the access to other innovative educators to strengthen our student offer.

Moving forward I plan to find other MIEEs who share the same passion as I do around numeracy in HE, and share tips, tools and resources, perhaps even look at research around some of the methods already in place. I will continue to try out new features in Microsoft products – there are quite a few interesting AI-based features on the horizon!

Overall, it's been a great experience reapplying for my MIEE, I found it to be a chance to reflect on what I've done well, and as difficult as it can be putting it down on paper, the whole process has been worth it – if only for that shiny digital badge to go on my LinkedIn page! Jokes aside, I'm looking forward to learning what others are doing, and how I can integrate their ideas into what I do.

I enjoy exploring innovative approaches to improving T&L, this will just be an easier way to connect with those implementing these ideas. I'd recommend everyone give it a go – we all work hard to support our students, and it's worth it to get that recognition alone – the benefits are just the icing on the cake.

Additional Resources & Useful Information

- [Digital Transformation CPD.](#)
- [Teesside University's Knowledgebase-Guides.](#)
- For help & support with Digital Pedagogy or MIEE related queries contact elarning@tees.ac.uk.