3 P’S IN A POD: A Mechanism to Develop independent learning and self efficacy in a foundational first-year unit

*Presenters:*

Dr Reva Ramiah, Coordinator, English Language Development, Office of the PVC Science and Engineering  
Ms Lauren Gilson, English Language Learning Officer, Office of the PVC Science & Engineering  
Dr Joanne Castelli, International Mobility Coordinator, School of Science

*Abstract:*

The transformation of the “Science Comms” (COMS1000) unit into its present manifestation began with a needs analysis of the concepts and skills required by science students in the School of Science (SOS) with respect to communicating science in their disciplinary units. SOS teaching staff sentiments were that the teaching of communications to science students needed to be underpinned by concepts and principles of scientific behaviour and that it should also reflect the type of experiences that students may expect to participate in as professional scientists. As the unit is only worth 12.5 credits, the challenging task of designing a meaningful learning experience was facilitated by a flipped delivery model that places the larger part of responsibility for learning on the students. This presentation will explore the tuition tactic used – “the three P’s,” that are preparation, participation and production. It will also seek to discuss learning design strategies that were formulated to manage first year student behaviour.