



Survey of Teaching Needs in Scotland

One of the strategic aims of the Applied Quantitative Methods Network (AQMeN) in Scotland is to support the development of statistics teaching at intermediate and advanced levels within social science departments across the higher education institutions in Scotland. One of our specific objectives is to develop teaching modules that will facilitate this development, with two planned over the course of 2011.

We are currently in the process of conducting an audit of what academic staff in Scotland are currently providing in terms of statistics teaching, and trying to identify needs and priorities for the social science community as a whole. We recognise that some areas and institutions are well provided for, while others might benefit from further support. As a result of the audit, we aim to design teaching modules that will offer appropriate, targeted support within the constraints that staff face within their own institutions.

AQMeN has created a Teaching Development Group (TDG), each of whom have experience of teaching statistics in various universities across Scotland. The TDG has designed a questionnaire to elicit your views about your statistics teaching needs and where you feel AQMeN could assist you in developing intermediate or advanced level courses, should you be interested in doing so.

The survey can be accessed by clicking on this link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AQMeN-TDS>

The closing date for completion of the survey is **Friday 24th December**.

Please feel free to distribute this link to other colleagues within your institution, or contacts in other institutions, who also are engaged in teaching statistics (or who wish to do so) within the social sciences.

Depending on how much you wish to tell us, we reckon that it will take 10 – 20 minutes to complete the questionnaire, which we believe will be time well spent if we can satisfactorily meet your needs (and those of other teaching staff) in the future. We ask for your name so that we can get back to you should we need to clarify any issues or to seek contributions that you feel willing to make.

Once we have developed the two teaching modules, and successfully piloted them, they will be made freely available to others to use via the AQMeN website.

You may ask whether this 'free' service has any catches to it. The answer is generally 'no', but we do ask in the survey if you would be willing to contribute any materials for general use across the network on a voluntary basis. We recognise that you might feel that this represents your teaching 'equity' and should not be openly used in this way. In order to allay your fears, we will be circulating a document about your intellectual property rights so that, rather than feeling exploited, your work might gain wider recognition for its contribution. We hope that this aim of working to mutual benefit will provide a distinctive approach to our work that you would wish to be part of.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this and, hopefully, to respond to our survey.

Kind regards,

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On behalf of the Teaching Development Group, AQMeN