

The University of Sydney's Introduction of Tablet Pods in Learning Studios

Kathleen Donohoe

The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
kathleen.donohoe@sydney.edu.au

Marianna Koulias

The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
marianna.koulias@sydney.edu.au

The University of Sydney is currently engaging in the design, development and evaluation of new types of learning spaces that support collaboration and engaged enquiry. One of these is a learning studio containing tablet[1] pods (a learning space which incorporates a tablet for each student). An important consideration in the process of designing and implementing these new learning studios, was orientation for the academic staff that would be teaching in them. It was decided to trial an immersion approach into the most effective use of the spaces and the elements contained. Academics were given a brief overview on how to use the ICT equipment in the new learning space and then left to develop their own approaches to using the new space. During this semester (Semester 1, 2013), a sample of academics from various disciplines will be selected and approached to provide feedback. We will be meeting with academics to discover:

- What they have attempted
- What worked
- What didn't work
- Lessons learnt and advice
- The approach of immersion as opposed to workshops and training

Input from other sources will include:

- Determining an increase / decrease in requests for new and repeat bookings for next semester
- Any informal feedback from students / other academics
- Utilisation rates – how many logins and how many students are in classes

We will be using the academic feedback to define the requirements for and shape workshops that will continue to define future approaches to space and standards.