

Providing opportunities for low-stakes practice and increased feedback:

At Level 1 of the BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy much of the assessment is practically orientated and the students only submit two assignments during the whole year. This has resulted in students having difficulty in grasping the nuances of writing at Level 1 and often being disappointed with their marks. It is also difficult to evaluate how much the students engage with the feedback that is provided to them subsequently and if they actually then go on to use it to improve their standard of writing in Level 2 assignments.

*The skills assignment traditionally involved two 1,000-word sections based on a case study scenario: the students had to justify treatment approaches to address the patient's problems in their answers, using research evidence and clinical reasoning. Students were provided with marking criteria to assist with their essay. The formative strategy employed required the students to submit either of the two sections of the assignment **as a draft** approximately five weeks before the final submission date. Students were given feedback (not a mark) using the following pro-forma within 2-3 weeks. This gave the students a minimum of two weeks to use the feedback to change their assignment and to state how they had used their feedback.*