

Focus on: employee

Focus on... Claire Mann



Claire Mann is a PhD student jointly supervised in the School of Education and the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science (SVMS). She also works part-time as one of six student interns in the Visual Learning Lab.

Monday:

I start the week at my base at Sutton Bonington campus to check in with one of my PhD supervisors. I then head off for a lunchtime meeting at the SB Grad Centre with Rebecca Dowsett, the Centre Manager. The aim is to find out more about what they do and how the VLL can connect with the postgrads on Sutton Bonington and support them with visual learning technologies. We agree to schedule a 'pizza presentation' where I introduce the VLL to students in a lunchtime session. After the meeting, I head back to SVMS and type up the notes of the meeting. I spend the afternoon reading at my desk – phenomenography, if you're interested!

Tuesday:

Back to SVMS as I am scheduled to observe a lecture in the morning for my PhD, looking at the learning experiences of students studying

the new SVMS curriculum. I'm not a vet but as an educationalist it is really fascinating to observe some of the innovative educational methods being implemented within the new SVMS.

As part of my work as a VLL student intern I am very keen to encourage university staff to make better use of new technologies (such as interactive white boards) to make teaching and learning more interesting and effective. With the other VLL student interns I am helping both staff and students to find out more about some of the visual technologies, which are available, and start using them in their courses.

Wednesday:

I am working on Jubilee Campus today where I spend the morning reading for my PhD studies. The library is better equipped there for education material. After a quick lunch break I nip into the VLL to test my interactive presentation on the interactive whiteboard base in the Dearing Education Building. Then I head back to the library on Jubilee Campus to get stuck into my reading again.

Thursday:

Somewhere different this morning — I have a meeting in the Division of Nursing at QMC as part of my VLL Student Intern role. They were keen to tell me all about their wide range of developments in visual learning, from using video-conferencing in lectures, to students using video to self-assess their practice, and the use of webct, interactive whiteboards and e-portfolios. We talk about ways that VLL interns might support development in some of these areas.

Friday:

Back to Sutton Bonington again for a pure PhD day. There are some practical sessions to observe which I really enjoy because they are so different to anything I am used to. Today there is a horse with colic, a dog who has suffered a cardiac arrest (we think!) and some emergency telephone calls to answer. Much of the student learning is focused on real animal cases and this often leads to highly active and engaged work.