

The following articles are from people who have received award funding from us to develop a research project or area of scholarly activity. They range from early academics receiving a student award, to those who have received more substantial amounts to support larger scale projects.

Jenny Moon

explains how she was able to develop her research skills and publish her findings through ESCalate support and encouragement. ►



The power of the written word

I would say that my professional life has been better because ESCalate was there with its friendly staff, support, wide networks and the potential for the initiation of exciting projects.

The first contact was around eight years ago when I was in a very unsatisfactory educational development post, being told not

to write or do research as I was apparently a 'non-academic'! ESCalate gave me a grant to support work on the learning of students from non-traditional backgrounds and this gave me a sense of value, and given that I had a grant, no-one was going to stop me. More or less since that time, I have been asked to evaluate grant



ESCalate gave me a grant to support work on the learning of students from non-traditional backgrounds and this gave me a sense of value...



me to see if I agree with myself, or could hone the thinking better.

Then I was asked to write a second commissioned piece of work, again a Discussion Series booklet, on using academic assertiveness to enhance groupwork ('Making Groups Work'). The contents of this came from making generic some work I had been doing with media students and extending some ideas from a book that I had just written.

In 2007, in collaboration with ESCalate I ran a series of workshops around the theme of reflective learning. They gave rise to much discussion and exchange of practice on the day and a wealth of resources for use by the community via the ESCalate website.

I have been in touch with ESCalate again recently about writing a pack to support tutors in running sessions on oral storytelling for students; this is a source of strong personal interest for me and once placed, it is available for reading/downloading from the ESCalate web site¹.

So ESCalate has meant a lot to me – friendly support, an avenue for publication, a stimulant for thinking, opportunities and the chance to communicate with others from different disciplines.

I am sure that there are many others who benefit in similar ways from ESCalate and other such subject centres.

¹ <http://escalate.ac.uk/7121>



Jenny Moon
Bournemouth
University and
Freelance Consultant

Jenny Moon works part time as Associate Professor in the Centre for Excellence in Media Practice at Bournemouth University. She also works freelance in higher education at home and abroad. She has written ten books on reflective learning, critical thinking, programme and module structure, academic assertiveness and the role of story in higher education.

proposals for others, hoping that others can benefit from ESCalate funding in the manner that I did.

ESCalate then commissioned me to do some writing for them. I wrote a Discussion Series booklet on critical thinking ('We Seek it Here.....') and various smaller articles on topics such as the role of writing in higher education learning – in my opinion a seriously neglected issue. All the writing I do is research. It involves seeking information, and then relating that to the way things actually are, or could be. Writing an idea down enables