Breaking Down the Barriers

Identifying barriers to teaching improvement is a crucial first step towards setting goals for development and strategies to achieve this end.

Task 2 of PATS requires academics to identify and subsequently “break down” the barriers they perceive as inhibiting or prohibiting them from initiating improvements to their unit’s content, design and/or delivery.

In order to identify these barriers, academics are asked to reflect on whether barriers are internal, external and within their control or not.

Resources
Brownwell & Kimberley 2012
DaRosa et al. 2011
Hockings 2005
Knight 2006
Hughes & Mighty 2010
Emerging Themes and Findings

The 2012 multi-institutional PATS trial revealed that the barriers listed by academic teachers are better placed to find solutions to break through the barriers rather than initiatives from their unit. The 2012 multi-institutional PATS trial revealed that the barriers listed by academic teachers are better placed to find solutions to break through the barriers rather than initiatives from their unit.

### Theme

- **Department/Faculty**
  - Culture; Support; Time & Workload; Structural Aspects

- **Student**
  - Attitude: Language Skills; Knowledge; Background

- **Personal**
  - Confidence; Knowledge; Motivation; Skills; Anxiety

- **Institutional**
  - Training; Class size; Resources; Administration; Scheduling

### Sub-themes

- Don't feel connected, lack of communication
- Do it doesn't make any difference!
- Lost motivation to improve things in the course, whatever

### Comments from PATS participants

**Personal**

I lost motivation to improve things in the course, whatever I do doesn't make any difference!

**Institutional**

Unfamiliar with technology, large class, too many demands, scheduling constraints, teaching, class size, resources, administration, scheduling.

**Department/Faculty**

Don't feel connected, lack of communication, culture; support; time & workload; structural aspects.

**Student**

Lack of student ability, resistant to methods, attitude: language skills; knowledge; background.

**Theme**

- Building Quality in Higher Education Courses
- Teachers Helping Teachers
- Peer Assisted Teaching Scheme (PATS)