Peer Observation of Teaching

The benefits of peer observation
Peer observation of teaching is a way of improving teaching and comprises one component of PATS. Peer review enables peers to focus on how teachers might better achieve their unit development goals while paying particular attention to students’ most commonly perceived unit improvement needs.

The different types of instruments
Different peer review instruments serve different purposes. Peer review instruments range from justified determinations of evidence against effective teaching principles, checkbox responses against particular teaching quality indicators, to freeform observation notes to capture observer perceptions and ideas as teaching unfolds.

Resources
Bell 2007
Dunseath et al. 2010
Griffith University Peer Review: http://www.griffith.edu.au/learning-teaching/quality/peer-review-of-teaching/pro-teaching/standard/resources
Macquarie University Peer Review: http://staff.mq.edu.au/teaching/evaluation/evaluation_methods/peer_review/
Rowe et al. 2010
The Peer Observation of Teaching Process

1. Briefing session
An initial discussion between the partners about the nature and aims of the activity so both can benefit from the experience.

2. Observation session
Observer records their observations throughout the session about the various interactions between the teacher and the students.

3. Post-observation session
A collaborative reflection where the observer provides feedback in the form of constructive criticism and suggestions for improvement.

4. Production of a joint statement
A short summary containing a log of who was observed by whom, good practice observed and any other issues related to the promotion of high quality learning and teaching.

PEER ASSISTED TEACHING SCHEME (PATS)
Building Quality in Higher Education Courses
Teachers Helping Teachers
monash.edu/pats