

Peer review of teaching

- ***Think about why you want a peer to review your teaching or material.***
- ***Make notes, they'll help in your later reflection.***
- ***Let the other people involved know your intentions.***

1. You want help with a particular issue in your teaching:

This can be useful in addressing an issue that appears, eg. in student feedback.

It can help focus the review and in getting precise recommendations.

However, if the focus is defined too narrowly the reviewer may miss other useful issues.

You need to be very clear with the reviewers exactly what you want reviewed. However, if the focus is defined too narrowly the reviewer may miss other useful issues.

2. You want feedback to identify issues you may not be aware of:

This can be useful in general teaching enhancement.

It doesn't take a great deal of preparation.

Reviewer recommendations may comment on areas you are not expecting – be prepared for this.

Reviewer recommendations may be in areas you consider unimportant or difficult to act upon – be prepared to discuss this with them.

3. You want to engage with your colleagues in discussions about teaching:

You should let your reviewers know that you are looking for ongoing discussions.

Making yourself the subject can get people talking without feeling threatened.

Many of the comments under 2. apply here.

4. You want to get promoted:

Make sure you know the requirements for documentation for promotion purposes and that your reviewers are happy to satisfy them.

See if you can use it for one of the above purposes as well.

We don't recommend peer review as being mandatory for any reason, including this one.