

Approaches to Learning and Teaching for Mature Business Students

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This paper integrates the experiences of the author both as a business manager and as an academic tasked with planning and delivering a number of extended teaching sessions to groups of MBA students. The practical findings of the paper are underpinned by secondary research undertaken in preparation for the course and as a post-course review. The key theme of the paper is that MBA students are quite different from any other group, and that their learning and teaching needs must be addressed in a unique way. The paper includes both practical approaches, and the supporting theoretical background to the recommended techniques. In particular, the paper draws on recent work on managerial emotion, and considers how an understanding of this concept may inform the teaching of such students.

The author also reviews the effect on the course tutor of the delivery to an MBA group, and the means by which the prior experience, concerns, and anxieties of both parties may be channelled productively to enhance the overall learning and teaching experience. The author concludes that teaching MBA students can pose particular challenges, but that the rewards to both parties can be exceptional.

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