



Staff-student partnerships in app development

This exemplar is relevant to Digital Student challenge:

Engage in dialogue with students about their digital experience and empower students to effect change in their digital environment

Among the many innovations you can read about on the University of Reading's [Engage in Learning and Teaching](#) blog is this one from the School of Agricultural Policy and Development. Staff and students from a number of different disciplines shared their know-how to develop 'KiteSite', a free mobile app for recording biological species. KiteSite is a generic tool to support field training in biodiversity and taxonomy, so it can be used in any module for field data collection. Developed with support from the University's Teaching and Learning Development Fund, it is currently available for Android and iOS mobile devices.

Using the app (and a range of field-ready mobile devices if they need to borrow one), staff and students at the University of Reading have been recording species found on the University's Whiteknights campus. These data are publicly available and can be used in a multitude of ways to support learning, for example to ensure that students can correctly identify species, or to look for patterns in temporal, spatial and species population data. The [Whiteknights Biodiversity Blog](#) provides a public commentary on the data record.

How does this meet the challenge?

- This is a model example of how staff and students with a range of digital and academic skills can collaborate successfully.
- The app is easy to use and openly available: students on campus don't even need their own mobile device to use it.
- The app is useful in research and public outreach, as well as in research-led learning. In fact it blurs the boundaries between them.

Find out more

- [Kitesite blog](#)
- [Detailed write-up](#)

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