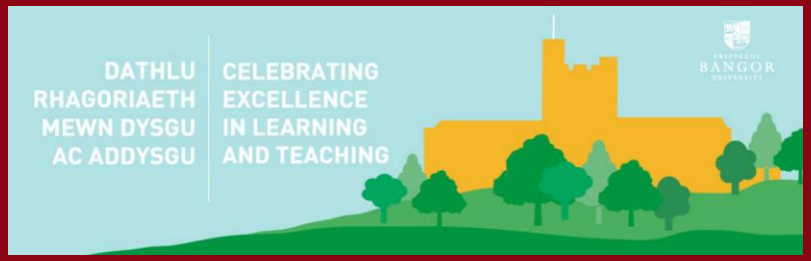
PRIGYSGOLBANGOR / BANGOR UNIVERSITY



PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

Transitions in postgraduate forestry teaching provision in SENRGy: choosing between face-to-face, distance learning, or both?

James Walmsley, Mark Rayment, Rob Brook

j.walmsley@bangor.ac.uk

www.forestry.bangor.ac.uk

FORESTRY@BANGOR ANNIVERSARY 110 years 1904 - 2014

Outline

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

- Brief overview and context:
  - The ever changing nature of university degrees
  - Part-time distance learning PGT provision
  - Full-time PGT provision
- Simultaneous provision: implications
  - Module class sizes, student attainment, student satisfaction, student retention, staffing
- Key challenges
- Major successes
- Future ambitions

The Economist | World politics | Business & finance | Economics | Science & technology | Culture | Blo

The future of universities

The digital degree

The staid higher-education business is about to experience a welcome earthquake

Jun 28th 2014 | From the print edition

Timekeeper | Like 3.4K | Tweet

FROM Oxford's quads to Harvard Yard and many a steel and glass palace of higher education in between, exams are giving way to holidays. As students consider life after graduation, universities are facing questions about their own future. The higher-education model of lecturing, cramming and examination has barely changed for centuries. Now, three disruptive waves are threatening to upend established ways of teaching and learning.

http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21605899-staid-higher-education-business-about-experience-welcome-earthquake-digital?fsrc=email_to_a_friend accessed 05.09.2016

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

Background – Forestry@Bangor by distance learning

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

- DL provision launched in 2001
- Current offering: **MSc Forestry** and **MSc Tropical Forestry** (part-time distance learning)
- All mature students
- 'Linear' course structure with high quality residential components

Background – Forestry@Bangor by distance learning

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

Background – Forestry@Bangor by distance learning

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

Background – Forestry@Bangor by distance learning

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

- DL provision launched in 2001
- Current offering: **MSc Forestry** and **MSc Tropical Forestry** (part-time distance learning)
- All mature students
- 'Linear' course structure with high quality residential components
- Increasing numbers of international students (~40%)

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS

YR UNDEB EWROPEAIDD Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop AMCAN 1 — EUROPEAN UNION European Social Fund OBJECTIVE 1 — Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru Welsh Assembly Government

- Students and graduates as Global Ambassadors for Bangor University (>40 countries)

Background – Full-time PGT provision in SENRGy

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

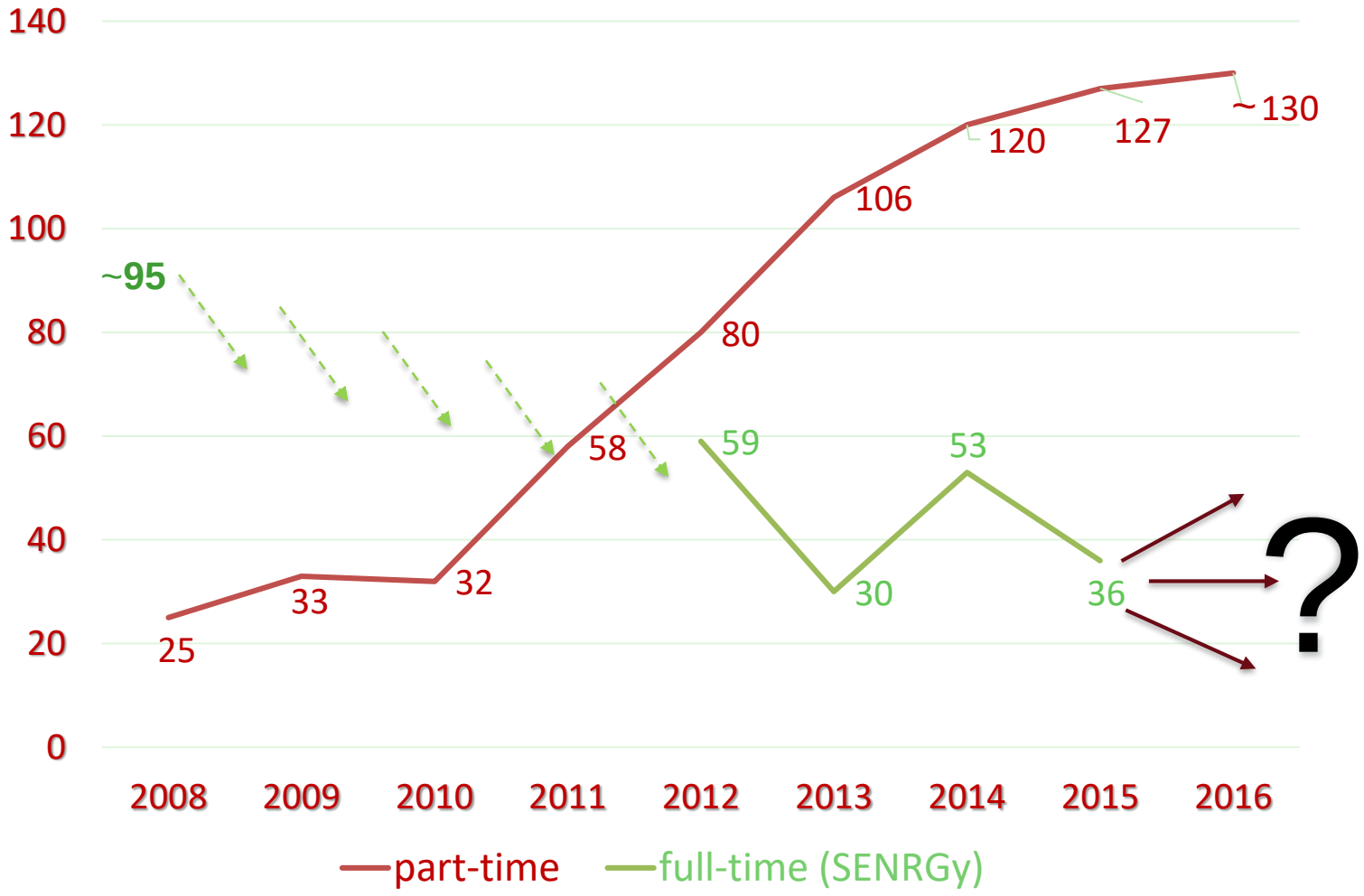
- Historically our focus has been on forestry, agriculture and conservation
- Current offering is as follows:
  - Agroforestry MSc
  - Conservation and Land Management MSc
  - Environmental and Business Management MSc
  - Environmental Forestry MSc
  - Forestry and Environmental Management degrees (TRANSFOR-M) MSc
  - Sustainable Forest and Nature Management (SUFONAMA) (Erasmus Mundus course) MSc

Erasmus Mundus

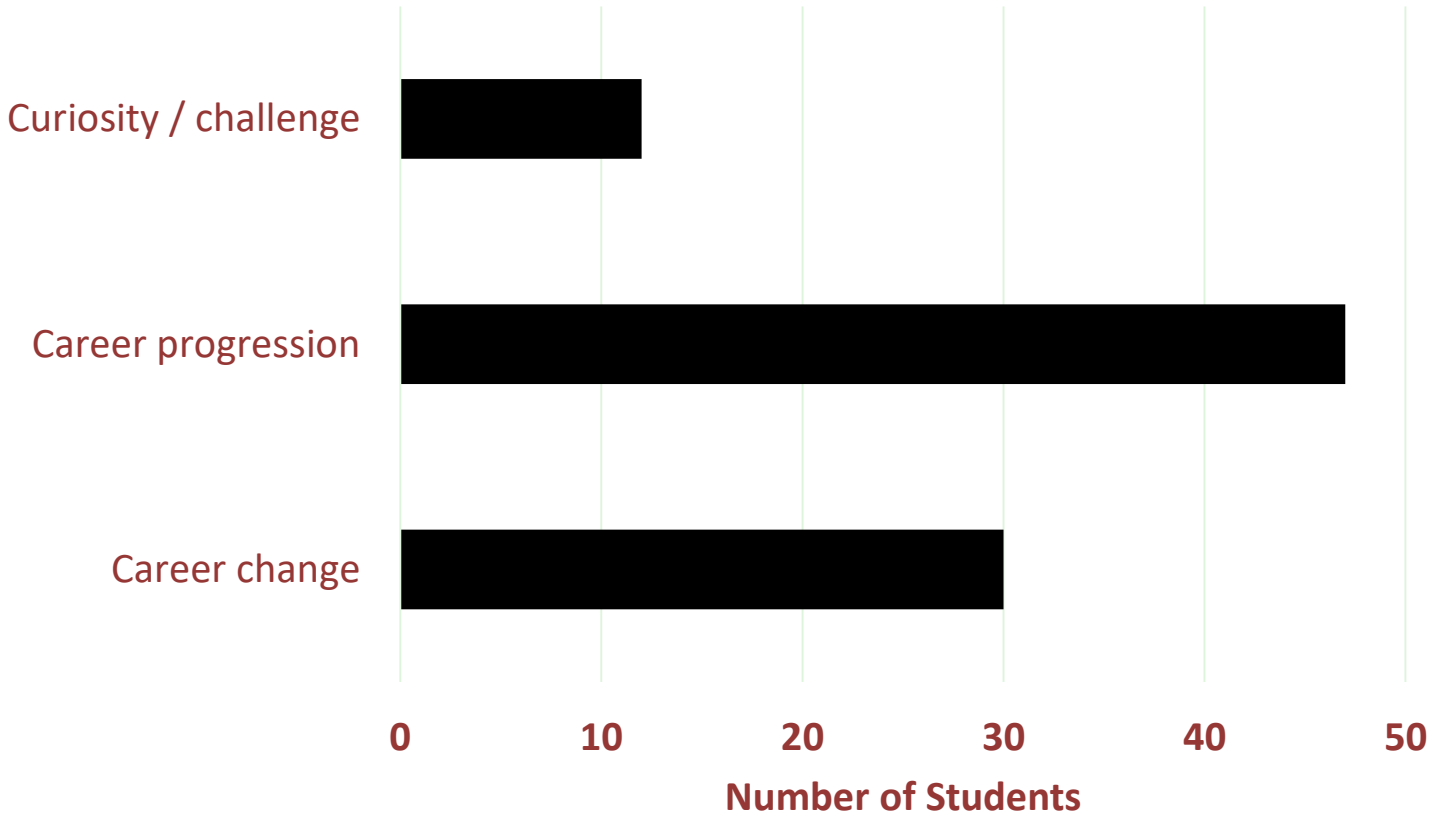
YR UNDEB EWROPEAIDD Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop AMCAN 1 — EUROPEAN UNION European Social Fund OBJECTIVE 1 — Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru Welsh Assembly Government

SENRGy PGT Student registrations (2008 – 2016)

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

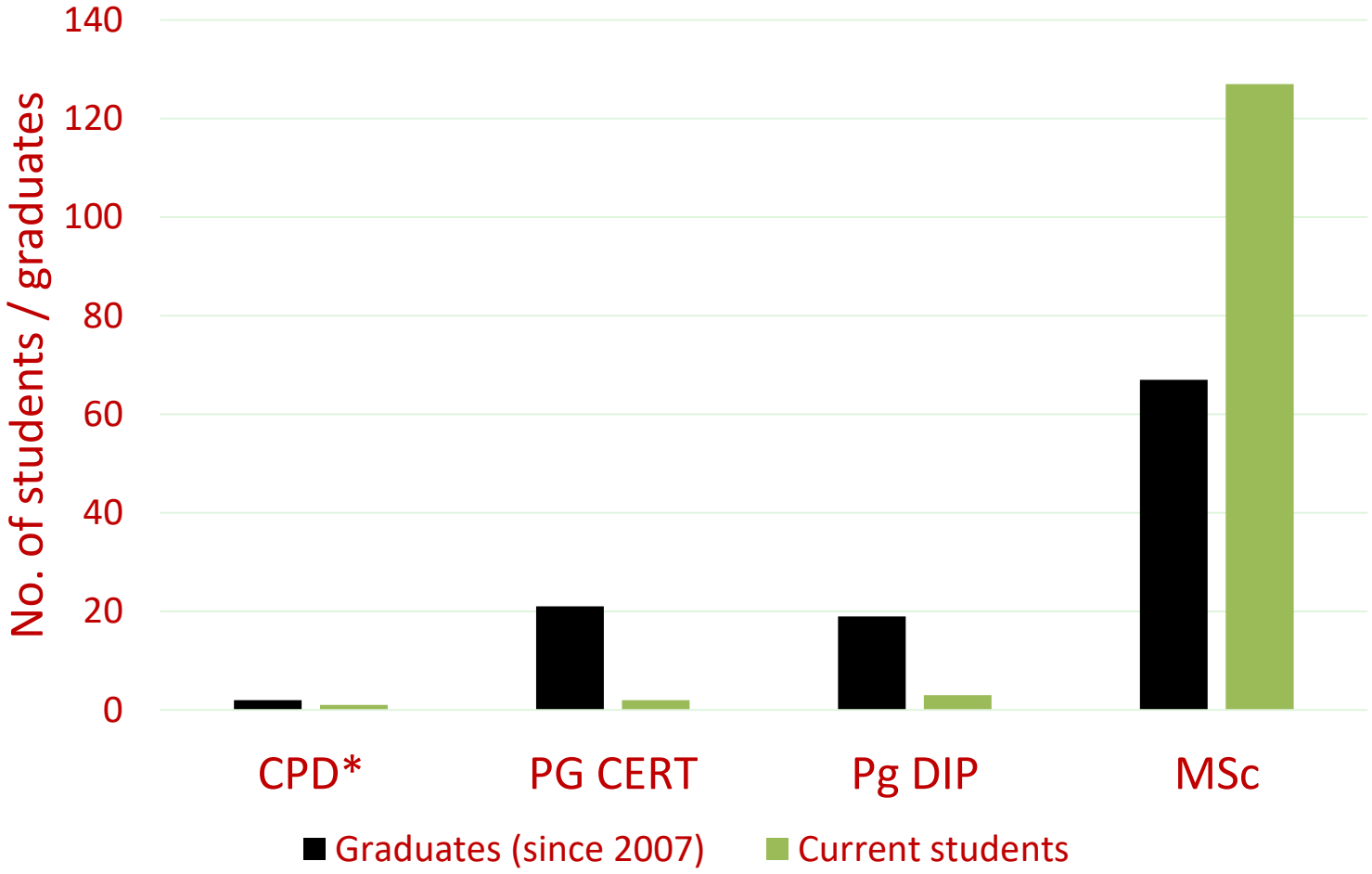


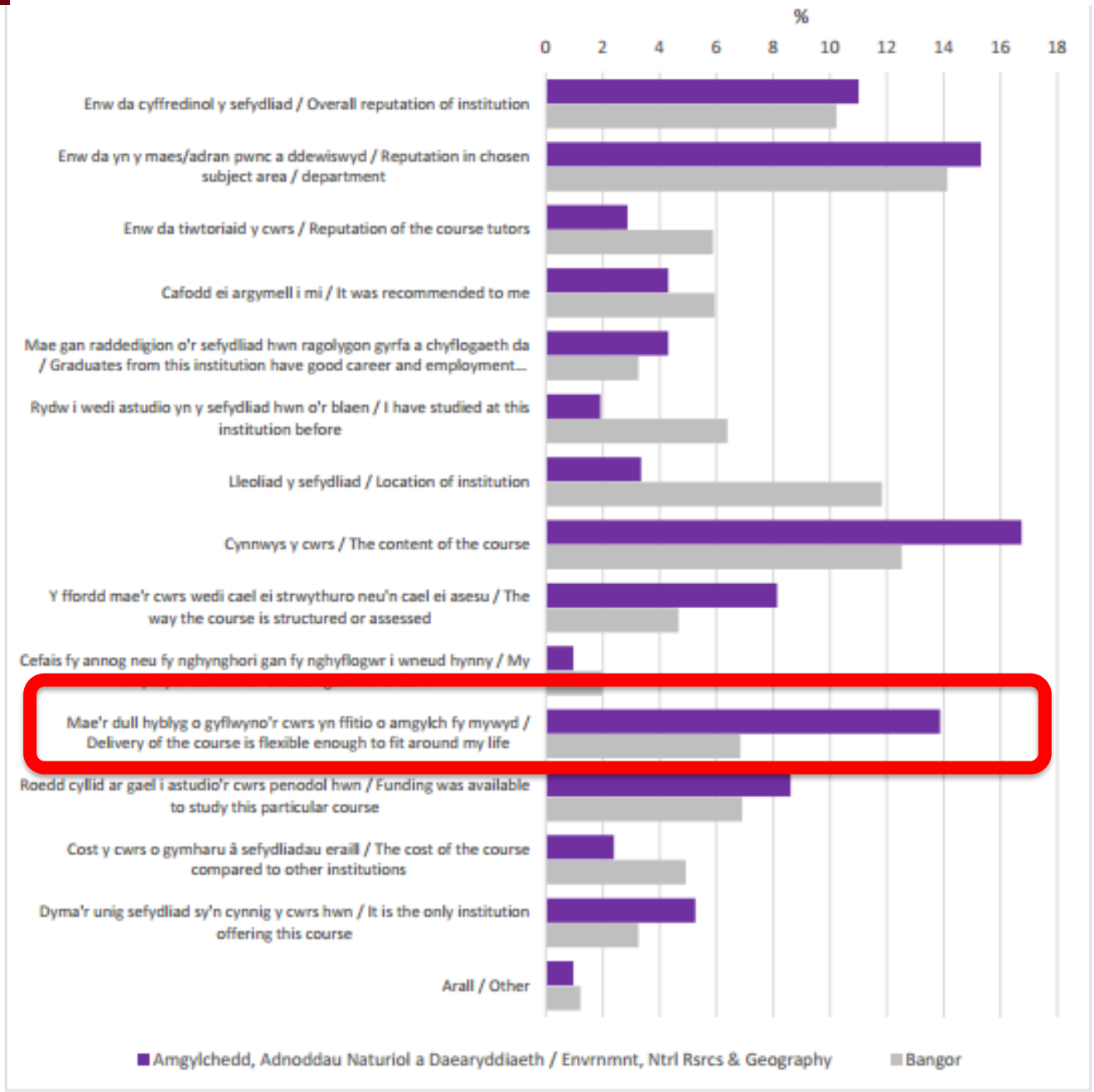
Part-time student 'motivations'



What do part-time students register for / graduate with?

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY





Pam Prifysgol Bangor ?
Why Bangor University?

SENRGy PTES report 2016, p.29

How does it work? DDL-4202 example

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

DDL-4202 SILVICULTURE

UNIT 7:

SILVICULTURAL SYSTEMS

2015-16

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & GEOGRAPHY

Copyright statement:

The ownership of the copyright of this document resides with Bangor University. The contents of this document may not be reproduced in whole or in part without prior permission of the copyright owner.

MSc Forestry
MSc Environmental Forestry
MSc Agroforestry
MSc Tropical Forestry

DDL-4202
Silviculture

Module Handbook

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

School of Environment, Natural Resources & Geography
Bangor University

Copyright statement:
The ownership of the copyright of this document resides with Bangor University. The contents of this document may not be reproduced in whole or in part without prior permission of the copyright owner.

1

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

DDL-4202 SILVICULTURE

UNIT 8:
SECONDARY FORESTS, CONVERSION, TRANSFORMATION AND RESTORATION
2014-15

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & GEOGRAPHY

ght statement:

wnership of the copyright of this document resides with Bangor University. The contents of
ocument may not be reproduced in whole or in part without prior permission of the copyright

How does it work? DDL-4202 example

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

DXX-4038 | Discussion Board – DDL-4

Bangor University [GB] https://blackboard.bangor.ac.uk/webapps/discussionboard/do/conference?action=list_forums&course_id=_85560_1&nav=c

Apps | Bookmarks | Nomination and Trac | UniCat | Add to My Bookmark | Neither fast, nor easy | Childcare Sodexo | www.forestry.gov.uk/ | PIP | Bb | SSBanner | Apps

- Welcome to DL Forestry & Tropical Forestry
- Staff
- Module resources
- Study Skills Test
- Discussion forums
- Study Skills Resources
- DL Forestry Handbooks & Docs
- DL Forestry world map
- Lectures
- Llyfrgell - Library
- Summative Assessments
- Tools
- University Resources
- Panopto
- Groups
- Self-assessments
- GIS Mini-site

COURSE MANAGEMENT

- Control Panel
- Files
- Course Tools
- Evaluation
- Grade Centre
- Users and Groups
- Customisation
- Packages and Utilities
- Help

Delete

Forum	Description	Total Posts	Unread Posts	Total Participants
Introductions	Please use this forum to INTRODUCE yourself to your fellow students and staff, as follows: 1. SUBSCRIBE to forum 2. CREATE thread 3. Type your NAME in the SUBJECT line 4. Write a few lines about yourself in the MESSAGE area. (such as where you live / where you are from, what you do as a job / what you've done in the recent past, what you like to do in your spare time and perhaps a few words about why you are studying forestry). 5. Scroll down and click on SUBMIT.	119	86	59
DDL-4202 Silviculture - Open Forum	SUBSCRIBE to this forum. In that way you will be automatically alerted every time a new post is made. Please feel free to post any comments / queries / questions you have relating to this module here and we'll do our best to assist you! Likewise, feel free to respond to any comments posted.	436	315	48
DDL-4202 Private student forum	This is a forum for distance learning / full-time students ONLY, where you can discuss issues that you only want to share with fellow students (just as if you were in Bangor chatting with your fellow students in the coffee room / pub / corridor). Staff **will not** use this forum.	65	60	16
Frequently Asked Questions	Any unfamiliar terms you come across, or anything else you're not sure about? Post here. SUBSCRIBE to the forum if you want to be alerted to any posts that are made to this forum.	45	45	11

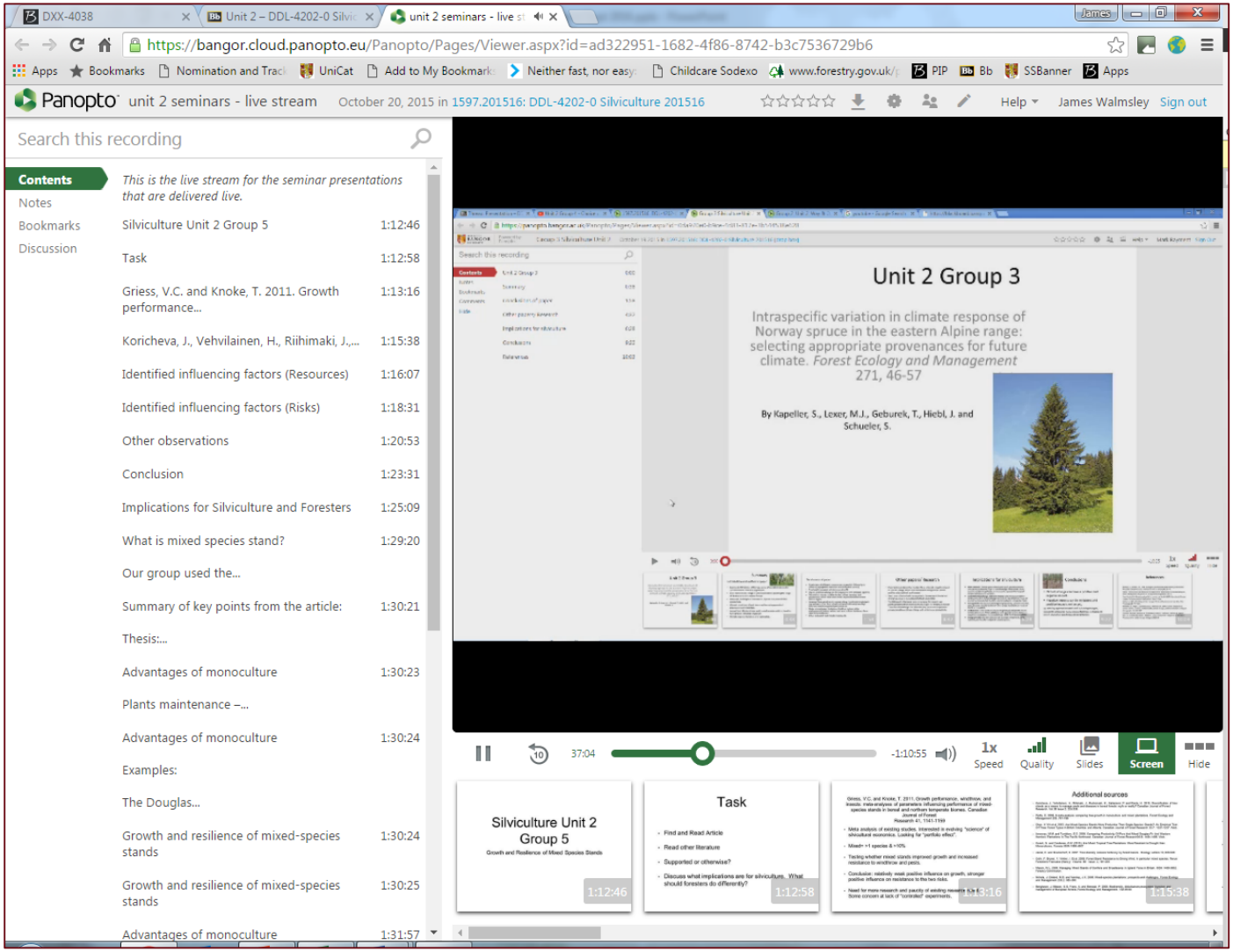
Properties of various discussions

Delete

Displaying 1 to 4 of 4 items | Show All | Edit Paging...

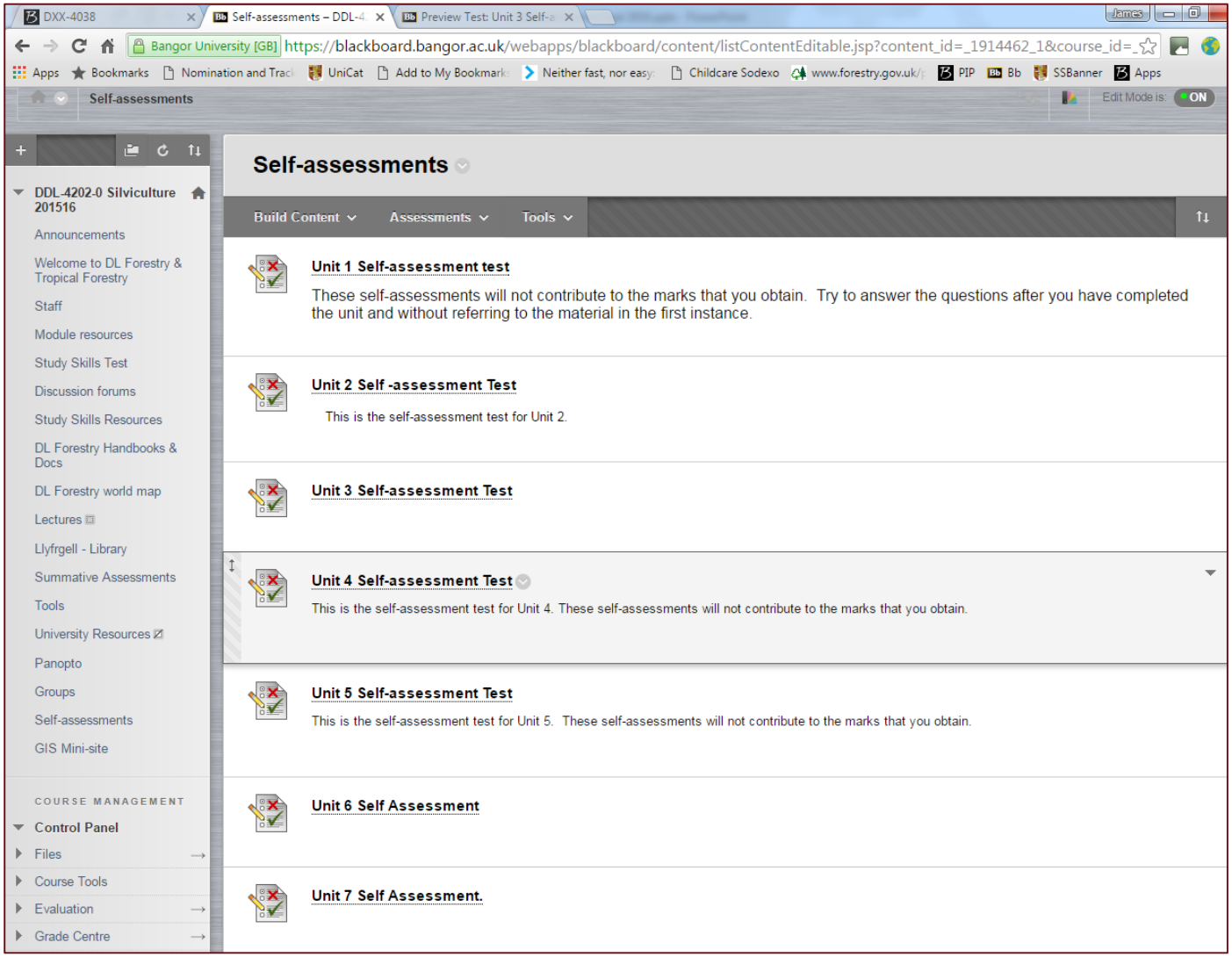
How does it work?
DDL-4202 example

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY



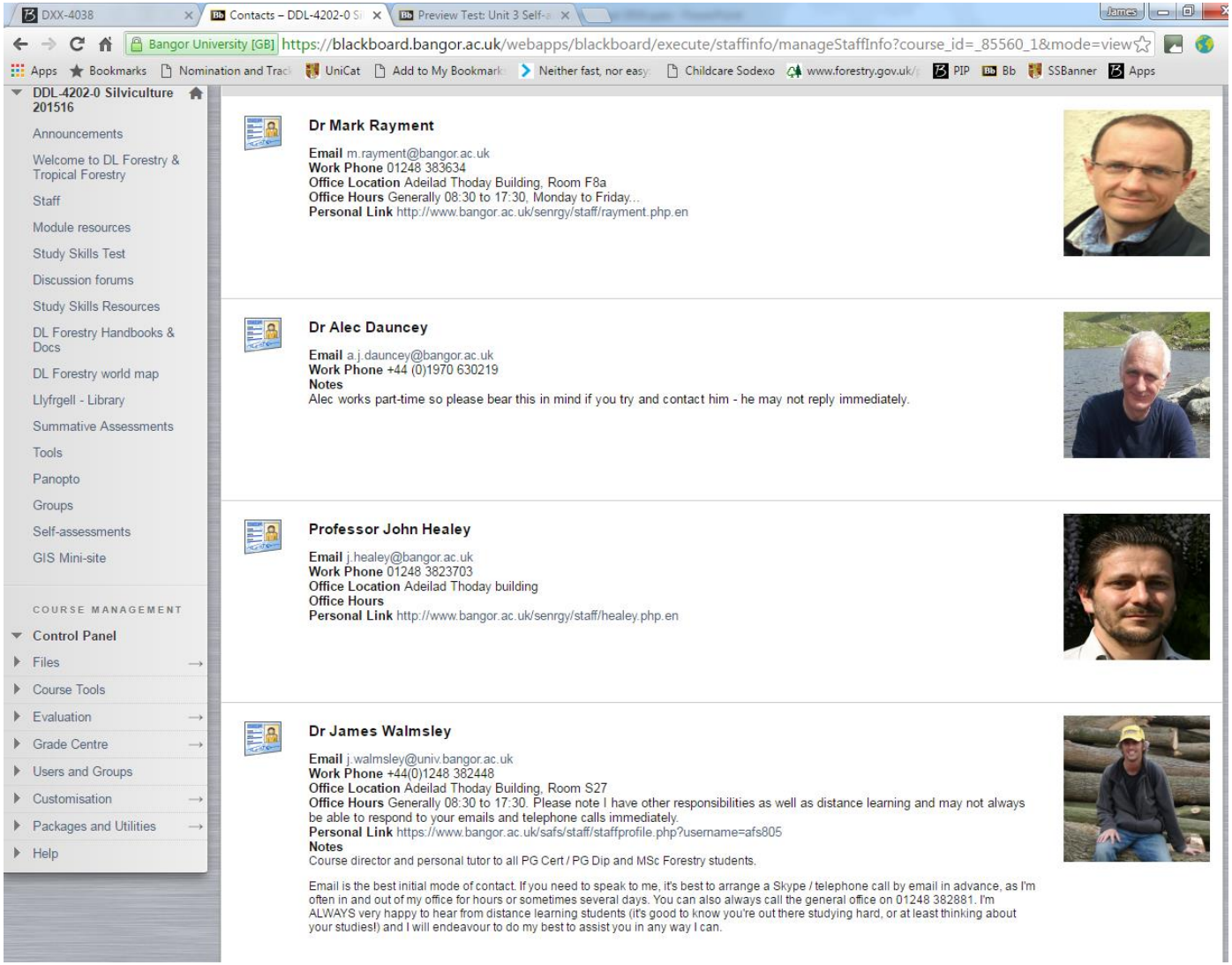
How does it work? DDL-4202 example

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY



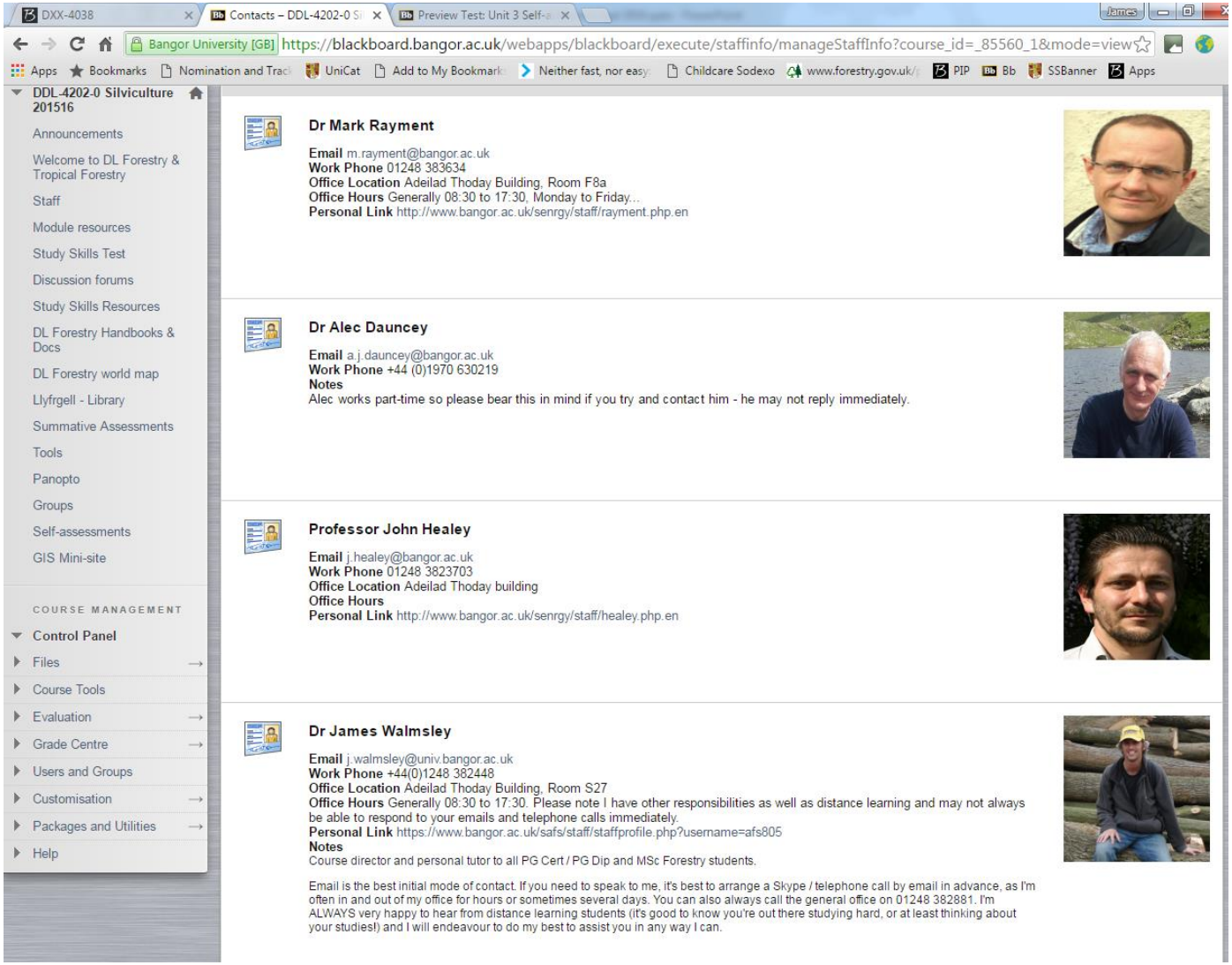
How does it work?
DDL-4202 example

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY



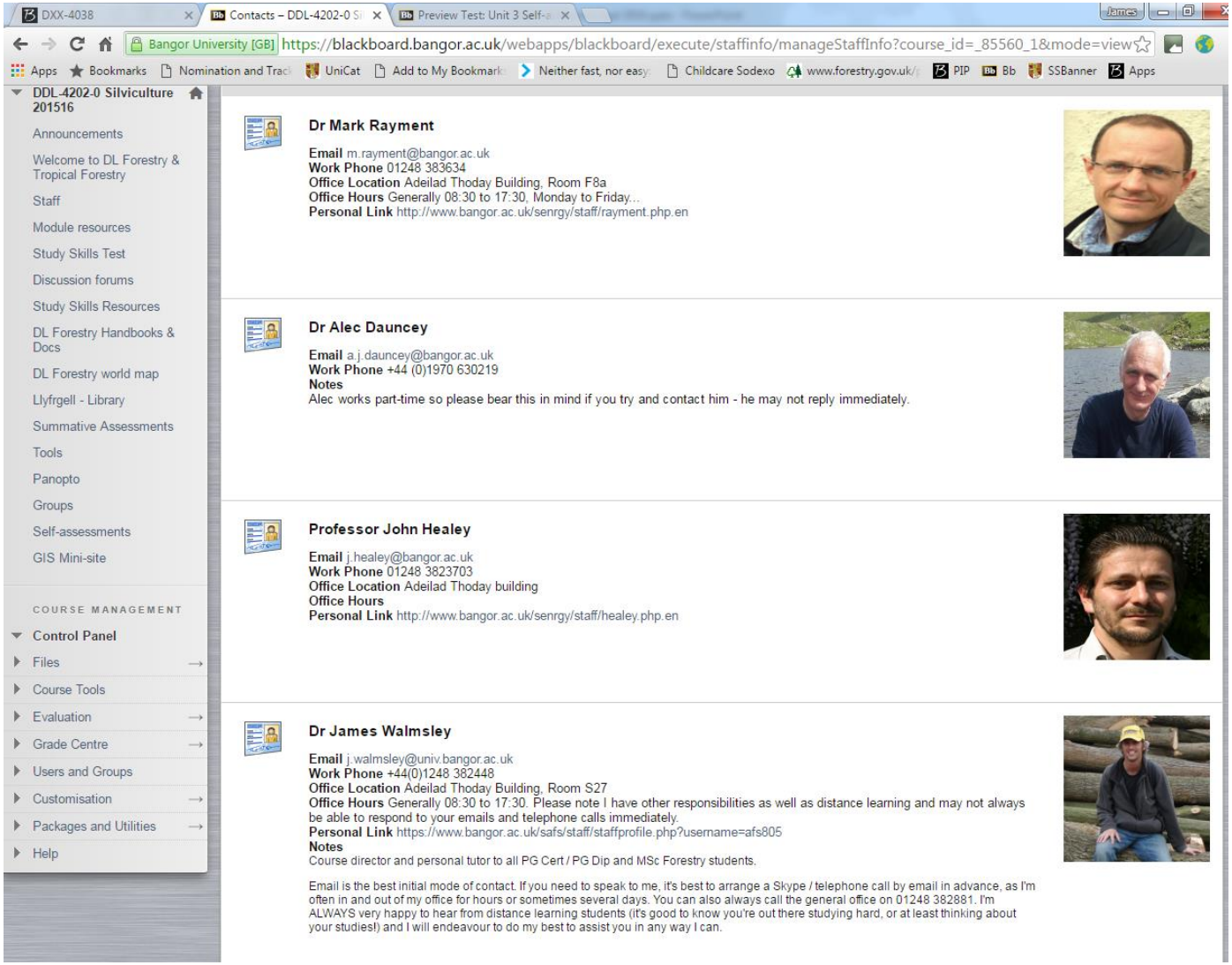
How does it work?
DDL-4202 example

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY



How does it work?
DDL-4202 example

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY



How does it work? Insight from module evaluation free text

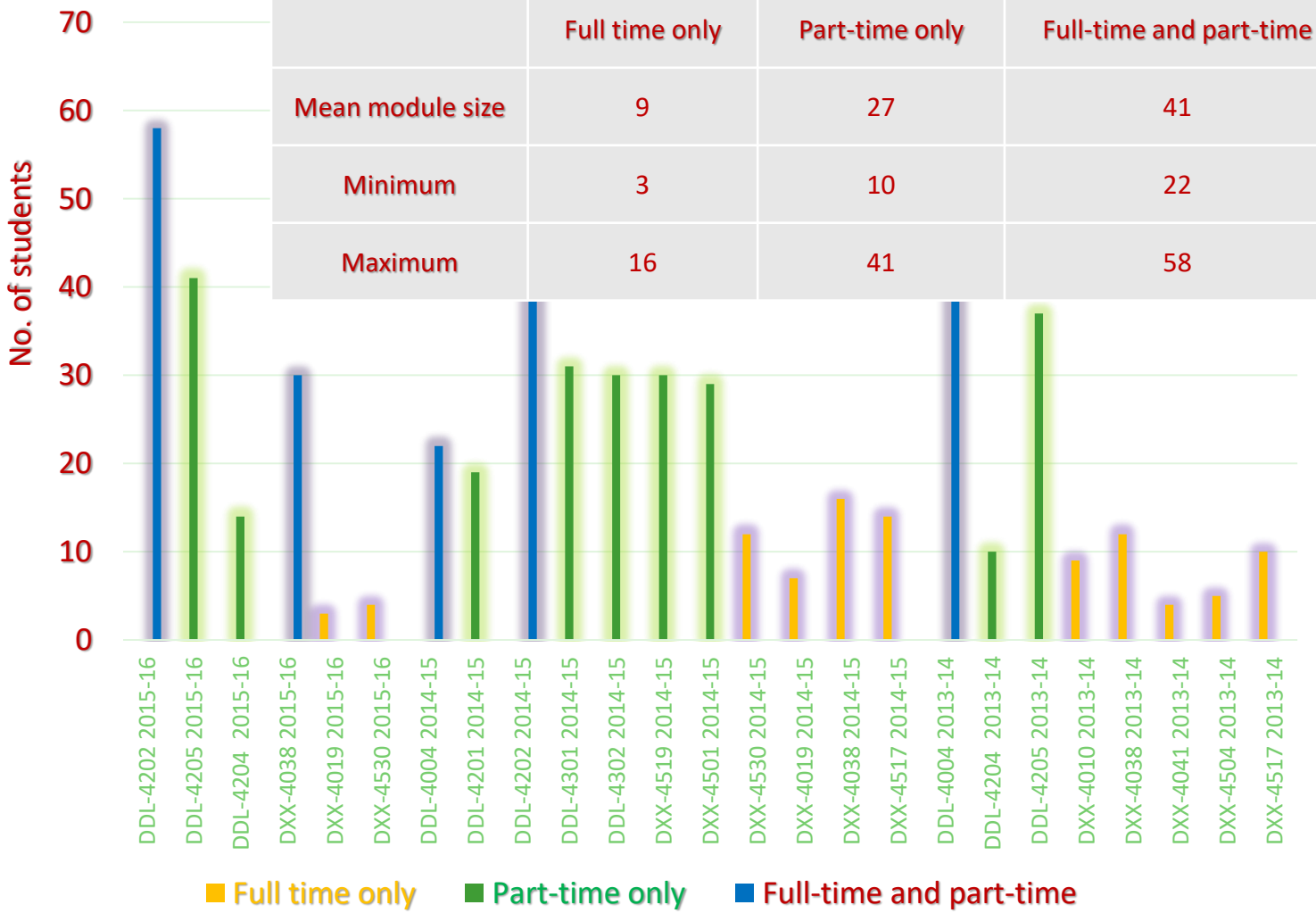
PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

- One of the reasons that I enjoyed DDL-4202 Silviculture so much was because it was a mixed part time distance learning and full time course. This meant there were weekly lectures, available on *Panopto* for distance learners, but it gave a great sense of engagement

Module class sizes

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

	Full time only	Part-time only	Full-time and part-time
Mean module size	9	27	41
Minimum	3	10	22
Maximum	16	41	58



Student satisfaction

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

Mode of Provision	Mean 'Overall Satisfaction' %	Range (min - max) %
Part-time only (n=10)	78.5	58 - 90
Full-time and part-time (n=4)	86.5	83 - 90
Full-time only (n=12)	80	63 - 100

Student satisfaction – PTES 2016

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

"I emphasise how helpful and enthusiastic all staff are. I also emphasise how involved in the university I have been and felt - particularly relevant given I am on a distance learning part time MSc."

"The MSc Forestry distance learning course has been fantastic with varied content and staff that are passionate about their subject matter."

"…the study tour allowed for face-to-face interaction between staff and students that was invaluable for maintaining motivation, discussion, feedback and breaking down barriers…".

Student satisfaction – full-time students say:

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

[I benefitted through gaining] “knowledge collaborating with long distance students”,

[it was helpful] “being able to download the Panoptos” [online lectures], [compared to other modules]

“excellent material available online especially the unit booklets”,

[I] “very much appreciate being able to put things into context and communicate with other students”,

Student satisfaction – part-time students say:

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

[it is] “good to have access to lectures that support course material”

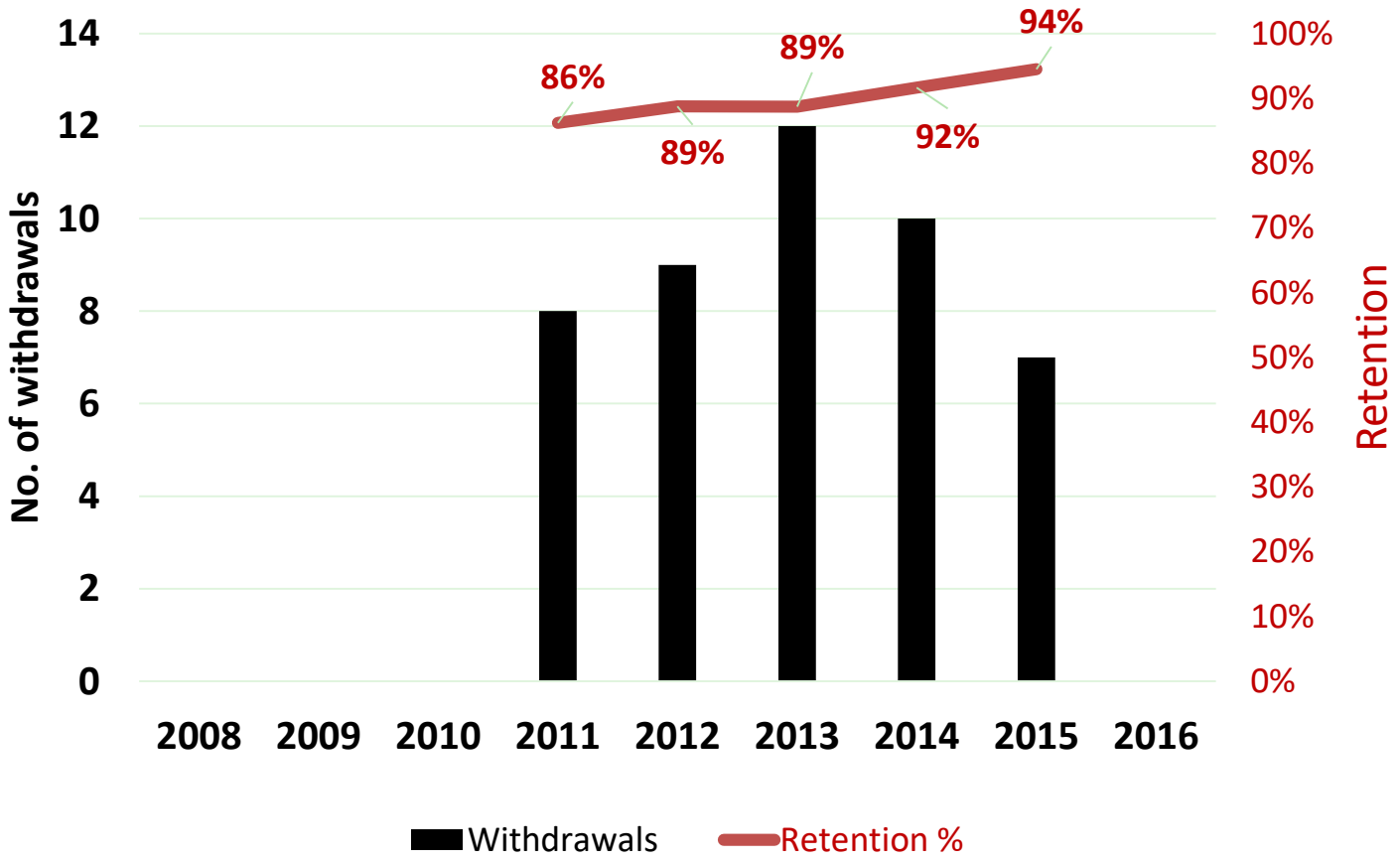
[it is stimulating to] “be confronted with other students’ opinions, vital in a Masters level course.”

“Lecturers feedback and additional guidance in the [discussion] forums was extremely useful and encouraging”

[video lectures] “play a valuable role in making DL feel part of the course. In conjunction with this the discussion boards make interaction with fellow students straight forward.”

Student retention

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY



Student attainment

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

- In general, part-time students do marginally better than full-time students in terms of mean module marks
  - Significance difference has only been detected once in an ARQUE report at the programme level (students on MSc Forestry distance learning performed on average 9.3% better than students on full-time programmes, p=0.044)
- Testimony to how well we engage our distance learners?

Staffing

FORESTRY@BANGOR ANNIVERSARY 110 years 1904 - 2014

Mark Rayment

Rob Brook

James Brockington

Tim Pagella

Cherelle Jarvis

Andy Smith

Gen Lamond

Alec Dauncey

James Walmsley

Major challenges?

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

- Winning over hearts and minds! – looking forwards not backwards
- Long-term process, difficult to enact radical changes overnight or even over a few years
- Technical resourcing (internal: Blackboard, Panopto, myBangor; external: website) – dedicated staff?

Future ambitions?

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

- Eliminate distinction between full-time and part-time
- Closer alignment of full-time and part-time provision:
  - 2016-17: another two modules (DXX-4505 and DXX-4530) will run concurrently for full-time and part-time students
- Build on our unique selling points, international reputation and cater for the unique circumstances of each student

PRIGYSGOLBANGOR / BANGOR UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL
BANGOR
UNIVERSITY

Thanks to all my colleagues in the School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography

Questions?

James Walmsley, Mark Rayment, Rob Brook

j.walmsley@bangor.ac.uk

https://www.bangor.ac.uk/senrgy/courses/distancelearning/