

Context

There are weekly laboratory practicals where students individually practice the processes necessary for pharmaceutical analysis. These build toward a 4 hour practical lab assessment where students are given a problem to solve using these skills. Their 2nd assessment is an interview on the content of the module. The module employs continual feedback and development which can help them going forward.



'I am glad I took this module since it gives me the experience of the laboratory working environment, rather than solely based on theory, I like we are being trained to be ready for real life job setting. I am nervous but looking forward to the assessments.'

Authentic assessment, mitigating plagiarism

Through the practical sessions, students maintain laboratory notebooks aligned with the industry Good Laboratory Practice framework which they complete and receive personalised feedback on week-by-week (but not repeated if left unaddressed by the student) to support development ahead of assessment. Students can bring their lab book into the practical assessment to use as guidance, as they would in a professional setting. Both assessment types, practical and oral, are **representative of experiences, tasks and roles that the students will undertake in the working world**. Significantly, these assessments **cannot be plagiarised**. Importantly, students whose academic/scientific writing is weaker can **equally demonstrate their skills** which carry over to industry.

Students can be nervous ahead of these assessments given their novelty but are praised for remaining calm under pressure and completing the task at hand (a skill in itself). The students feel a sense of accomplishment upon completion of these assessments.

Additional feedback provided to the students after the assessments **highlights areas for future improvement**; this does not have an impact on their resultant grades but creates space for students to grow as independent practitioners.

'So far, the best module I have taken in Napier. Not only was it properly structured but detailed, relevant and encouraged personal learning. The labs were hectic but the autonomy we were given with our lab sessions boosted my confidence.'