



MOOCs as a vehicle for delivering meteorological training

Sylvia Knight (1) and Felicity Liggins (2)

(1) Royal Meteorological Society, United Kingdom (sylvia.knight@rmets.org), (2) Met Office, United Kingdom (felicity.liggins@metoffice.gov.uk)

In the UK, providing Continuing Professional Development to teachers is challenging. Over the past few years, the Royal Meteorological Society has very successfully provided much needed weather and climate subject knowledge training to secondary geography teachers during their initial teacher training. However, changes to the models of teacher training in the UK is making this increasingly difficult at a time when teachers are being expected to teach far more meteorology.

In conjunction with the University of Reading, we have redeveloped our course in the form of a Massive Open Online Course, using the FutureLearn platform. The course, which is free of charge, is open to, and of interest to, anyone, although our target audience is UK secondary geography teachers.

Such MOOCs offer both the opportunity to provide traditional text, video etc content as well as a significant amount of peer-to-peer and expert support, which we would argue is essential for effective learning. Certificates are available for those completing the course.

In this presentation, we will examine the effectiveness of the course as a vehicle for both teacher training and more generally engaging with the public.