

# A Guide to Peer Observation

This document's purpose is to inspire topics for observation and, perhaps, to stimulate exploration of those topics.

<p><b>Classroom management</b></p> <p>How do strategies and techniques to create a positive learning environment work? E.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Opening of session and focusing students' attention</li> <li>▪ Structure, variation, pace</li> <li>▪ Management of breaks</li> <li>▪ Management of diversity, e.g. exchange students in class</li> <li>▪ Use of classroom</li> <li>▪ Closing of session</li> </ul>	<p><b>Motivating students</b></p> <p>How are students motivated in the session? E.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establishment of a supportive and inclusive classroom environment</li> <li>▪ Relation of course content and activities to students' experience//interest/future goals</li> <li>▪ Inclusion of real-world scenarios</li> <li>▪ Use of own research in teaching</li> <li>▪ Provision of constructive feedback</li> <li>▪ Fostering of a sense of autonomy by allowing students to make (simple) choices</li> <li>▪ Level of energy</li> </ul>
<p><b>Activating students</b></p> <p>How do the activities/exercises work in the session? E.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Organisation and facilitation of the individual activity</li> <li>▪ Students' reception of activities and their engagement</li> <li>▪ Management of poor preparation on students' side</li> <li>▪ Alignment between activity and learning targets/exam</li> </ul>	<p><b>Use of technology/teaching aids</b></p> <p>Which technologies/teaching aids are used in the session and how are they mastered? E.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ PowerPoint slide deck</li> <li>▪ Chalkboard/whiteboard</li> <li>▪ Handouts</li> <li>▪ Classroom response system (Slido)</li> <li>▪ Discipline-specific digital tools</li> <li>▪ Self-made videos</li> <li>▪ Use of Teams (or Zoom)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Teaching format</b></p> <p>How does the teaching format work? E.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use of Canvas course to promote engagement and prepare learners for face-to-face session</li> <li>▪ Interaction between online and in class activities</li> <li>▪ Facilitation of synchronous, online session</li> <li>▪ Orchestration of dialogue or plenum discussion in face-to-face session</li> </ul>	<p><b>Communication in session</b></p> <p>How does the communication in the session work? E.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation of agenda/intended outcome (meta-communication)</li> <li>▪ Dialogue with students / informal talk with students</li> <li>▪ Explanation of content students are struggling with</li> <li>▪ Command of language, use of voice, e.g. pace and pausing, body language</li> <li>▪ Announcement on Canvas, if relevant.</li> </ul>