

## PollEverywhere A summary for BSMS lecturers



<b>What is it?</b>	Electronic instant audience response tool, particularly effective for large group teaching
<b>How does it work?</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Before the lecture, you log in to <a href="#">PollEverywhere</a> and enter one or more questions to ask during your lecture You can download the questions as PowerPoint slides and insert them into your PowerPoint presentation (optional)</li><li>2. At the start of the lecture, you log in to <a href="#">PollEverywhere</a> and activate the first poll</li><li>3. During the lecture, you ask the questions (either as built in slides or go to the web browser) Students respond via the free PollEverywhere app / text message* / web browser on their laptop or mobile device</li><li>4. You reveal the responses on the big screen and discuss the answers (usually getting the students to explain them)</li></ol>
<b>Why would I use it?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A simple tool that helps gauge students' understanding during teaching so you can then clarify / fill in the gaps</li><li>• Generates discussion and interaction – also works well if they work in pairs or small groups</li><li>• It makes use of students' own mobile devices and laptops, replacing the time-consuming version of separate 'clickers'</li><li>• It provides more accurate and anonymous responses (as opposed to hands-up or coloured card)</li><li>• You can keep a record of the results for future use; e.g. ask similar same questions at the beginning and end of the lecture series</li><li>• Easy to use and students have responded very positively in formal and informal feedback, requesting it be used more</li></ul>
<b>What could go wrong?</b>	<p>You must have an internet connection on the lectern computer (standard) Students must have internet connection (Wifi / 3G) or normal telephone signal to respond (there is free Eduroam wifi in all Uni lecture theatres)</p> <p>You need to be clear when students need to have mobile devices out and when they must subsequently put them away</p> <p>If you are going to use it in a 'flipped classroom' method (give the students information <i>before</i> the lectures and use the lecture time for case-based questions and explanations), it is best to inform the students in advance to clarify expectations</p>
<b>Does it actually work?</b>	<p>Yes. A growing number of lecturers are using it in large group settings. At BSMS, repro health and therapeutics lectures have been "transformed" by using it toward the end of the modules when students should be applying/testing their knowledge.</p> <p>It isn't designed to replace the sporadic quick 'hands-up' question but as a more pre-determined teaching methodology. Mike Titheradge, Mike Okorie, and Julia Montgomery use it successfully so do get tips from them.</p>
<b>Does it cost?</b>	<p>No, we can join the University of Brighton enterprise account for free (NB there is a limit of 200 responders in any one session)</p> <p>*If students are responding by text it will cost one standard text message charge per response (this doesn't seem to be an issue)</p>
<b>How do I get it?</b>	<p>Ask me, Tim Vincent (<a href="mailto:t.r.vincent@bsms.ac.uk">t.r.vincent@bsms.ac.uk</a> 01273 644501), for a user account (for you or your module/subject team). There are a limited number of accounts so it would be wise to explore it first to be sure you will make use of it.</p>