

Endeavour Article

In October 2016, I embarked on a three-year journey in which I studied for a Master of Education in Science Education with the University of Malta. Being a part-time course, it allowed me to strike a balance between pursuing my career during the morning and enhancing my knowledge in the evening.

This course was very beneficial for my career since it gave me the opportunity to meet other science teachers and together critically evaluate current policy documents related to science education, such as the science curriculum, and current research trends. This was crucial since research tends to influence policy making, the development of new pedagogies, and assessment methods which are then employed in our classrooms. In addition, during the course I was allowed to reflect critically on my school experience and develop skills for the benefit of my students.

One of the documents that I analysed during the course was the 'Framework for the Education Strategy for 2014 – 2024'. This document was written in response to the fact that according to the then Education and Employment Minister Evarist Bartolo "Malta is facing a skills crisis whereby jobs are being created but then there are not enough skills to match this demand". The Strategy emphasises that "our children need to be prepared for present and future jobs, and obtain more transferable skills to avoid skill obsolescence" (p. 5-6).

In an attempt to help my students not just learn chemistry, but also acquire the necessary skills that will make them competent individuals who are able to adjust to the ever-changing demands of the labour market, I sought to carry out a study in order to test a new pedagogy which I could utilize in my classroom. This approach, known as the flipped classroom technique, enabled the students to gain facts and knowledge outside schools through the use of videos, hence freeing up class time which could be used more effectively and efficiently helping students take ownership of their own learning. In addition, this method allowed students to become more self-directive, a skill which is very crucial when entering the world of work.

This degree was carried out following the award of an Endeavour Scholarship Scheme which is financed out of National Funds. I am very grateful towards the team who enabled me to pursue my studies and become a better teacher for the students of future generations.

Graziella Schembri