

# EduWiki

## CONFERENCE 2012

Stamford Hall, University of Leicester, Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 September  
Registration £30 for education staff or for Wikimedia contributors. Free bursaries available for students.

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### Keynotes:



Frank Schulenburg  
Global Education Program Director,  
Wikimedia Foundation



Prof. Jon Beasley-Murray  
University of British Columbia



Stamford Hall, University of Leicester

### Bringing together:

- Educators in universities and schools
- Learning and teaching support staff
- Students
- Wikipedia contributors
- Open education communities

### To discuss:

- Open resources and open practices
- Wikipedia educational assignments
- Other wiki-based education projects
- Critical thinking and digital literacy
- Assessment and accreditation

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Organised by Wikimedia UK and the Beyond Distance Research Alliance at the University of Leicester. Wikimedia UK is the national charity promoting and supporting Wikipedia and the other Wikimedia projects.



WIKIMEDIA  
UK

[bit.ly/eduwiki](http://bit.ly/eduwiki)

# The Wikipedia Education Program is an innovative alternative to throwaway educational assignments.

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## Student learning

Research shows students learn skills beyond a greater understanding of the course topics, including:

**Media literacy** Students identify bias and partisanship; particularly with respect to Wikipedia, students recognize whether an article is credible or not. Increasing the students' media literacy skills also means that they are less likely to use Wikipedia for copy-and-paste.

**Critical thinking** In contrast to many class assignments which require an argumentative or persuasive paper, Wikipedia's neutral point of view policy helps students think about class material in a new way.

**Expository writing** Students practice writing in an encyclopedic summary style.

**Collaboration** Students work with classmates and other editors to develop high quality encyclopedia articles.

**Research** Students get a lot of practice finding and summarizing appropriate sources for their topic.

**Technical skills** In today's computer driven environment, it is common to work with people one may never meet in person; students learn this essential skill as well as how to edit wikis.

## Student motivations

Research from the pilot of the Wikipedia Education Program shows **72% of students preferred a Wikipedia assignment** to a traditional assignment.

They found that they were excited to do a useful assignment for class, rather than one that only their tutor would ever read. Students are forced out of the academic bubble and given an opportunity to have their coursework reach an international audience. They're able to share their work easily with their parents and friends. And many find writing for Wikipedia is fun!

## Where the program is in operation

Volunteers around the world are running Wikipedia Education Programs. The Wikimedia Foundation program currently exists in four countries:

**Brazil:** Six courses are participating in a small pilot.

**Canada:** The second term just wrapped up, with 13 courses having participated.

**Egypt:** A pilot at two universities in Cairo is introducing students to Wikipedia editing.

**United States:** More than 55 courses with Wikipedia components participated in the spring 2012 term.

## Learn more

Visit <http://education.wikimedia.org>

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