I received an ISL grant for Semester 1, 2011, for a project titled “Improving Student Learning through Integrated Tutorial and Laboratory Class”, for the unit STAT1520 Economic and Business Statistics. This grant was used as follows.

1. The tutorial and laboratory classes prior to semester 2 in 2011 were separate 1 hour sessions. The tutorials were the run in the traditional fashion while the laboratory classes were run in the large Mathematics Computer Laboratory with two demonstrators looking after 120 students. There were two problems with this: the laboratory classes were poorly attended due to the lack of assistance, as two demonstrators could not provide adequate help; and there was a lot of common material between the two teaching and learning activities, but these synergies could not be explored or exploited.

2. The funds were used to revise and merge the tutorial and laboratory material into one seamless worksheet for each week.

3. In addition, in semester 1 of 2012, I used some of the funds to prepare two unit readers for this unit – Lecture notes, and Tutorial and Laboratory Problems. These were printed by Uniprint and made available to the students through the Coop Bookshop. The unit readers were in response to requests from students in my SPOT.

The response to these initiatives has been very positive. The combined Tutorial-Lab classes are well attended, there is an assessment based on the weekly tutorial-lab exercises, and the classes flow more smoothly, with students exposed to a variety of learning situations. More specific student response was collected by an online survey. The results of this project are expected to be reported at the next Delta conference on teaching and learning of undergraduate mathematics and statistics (24-28 November, 2013, Kiama, NSW).

In semester 2 of 2012 other innovations have been made in the teaching of this unit, which will be refined in semester 1 of 2013.