

*Employing the Online Team Collaboration
Platform Slack Among IOE PGT StARs*

+ Alexandros Xafopoulos +

UCL IOE Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Faculty StAR

UCL IOE MA Education & Technology Candidate

UCLU Education Conference 2017

Institute of Child Health, London UK, 25 February 2015

Session Aim

Invitations
Channelled Communication
General Communication
File Sharing
Searching
Polling

Session Aim

- Present basic functionalities of the platform Slack
- Invitations
- Channelled & general communication
- File sharing
- Searching
- Add-in: Polling
- Context: IOE postgraduate taught (PGT) StARs




Invitations

- Team members are invited by email

Invitations

Invite others to join your team.

 **Invite Full Members**

New full members will automatically join committees-reports, general, news-events, and polls [Edit / add](#)

Email Address	First Name	Last Name
<input type="text" value="name@example.com"/>	<input type="text" value="Optional"/>	<input type="text" value="Optional"/>

[+ Add another invitation](#) [G Connect your Google Contacts](#)

Big team? [Invite many people at once](#)
[See pending and accepted invites](#)

Invite 1 Person


 **Invite New Members**


Or just send this link to your team to let them sign up with their email address:

<https://ioepgtstars.slack.com/signup>


Channelled Communication










- Channels
 - can be public [open to all team members] or private [requiring channel invitation]
 - have a purpose & topic
 - are written in lower-case & preceded by the hash symbol [#]
- Channels correspond to joint-interest groups as of
 - content, e.g. #committees-reports, #news-events, #polls
 - role, e.g. #academic_staff, #uclu_staff, #uclu_officers
 - place/department, e.g. #london, #uk, #ccm, #cpa, #eps


IOE PGT StARs 



 alexandros


All Threads

CHANNELS (13) 


-  acdmc_stf
-  ccm
- # committees-reports
-  cpa
-  eps
- # general**
-  ll
- # news-events
-  pgce
-  phd
- # polls
-  ss
-  uclu_stf-ofcrs


DIRECT MESSAGES 

-  slackbot
-  alexandros (you)





#general


 |  48 |  7 | IOE PGT Programmes

February 10th


-  alexandros 12:40 AM
+The polls were transferred to the channel [#polls](#)
-  alexandros 12:54 AM
+The news & events now appear in the channel [#news-events](#) (edited)

February 11th

-  alexandros 12:19 AM
+Committees & reports appear in the channel [#committees-reports](#)
-  vincent 2:28 AM
joined [#general](#). Also, [@lin](#) joined, [@mkc012](#) joined, [@agnes](#) joined.



February 16th

-  alexandros 3:41 PM
+Great discussion with Sean, Student Helpdesk & Timetabling Coordinator, with Slack contribution from [@anum1](#).
Helpdesk: The Physical Face of StARs
About to initiate a project with StARs working in rotas at a designated place on the right of the main IOE Helpdesk! You (StARs) are expected to be invited by Sean early next week. (edited)

About #general











Channel Details

Purpose
IOE PGT Topics. This channel is for team-wide communication and announcements. All team members are in this channel.

Created by you on November 1, 2016

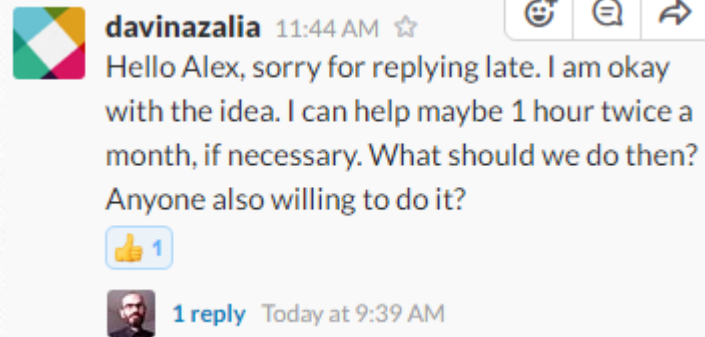
7 Pinned Items

48 Members

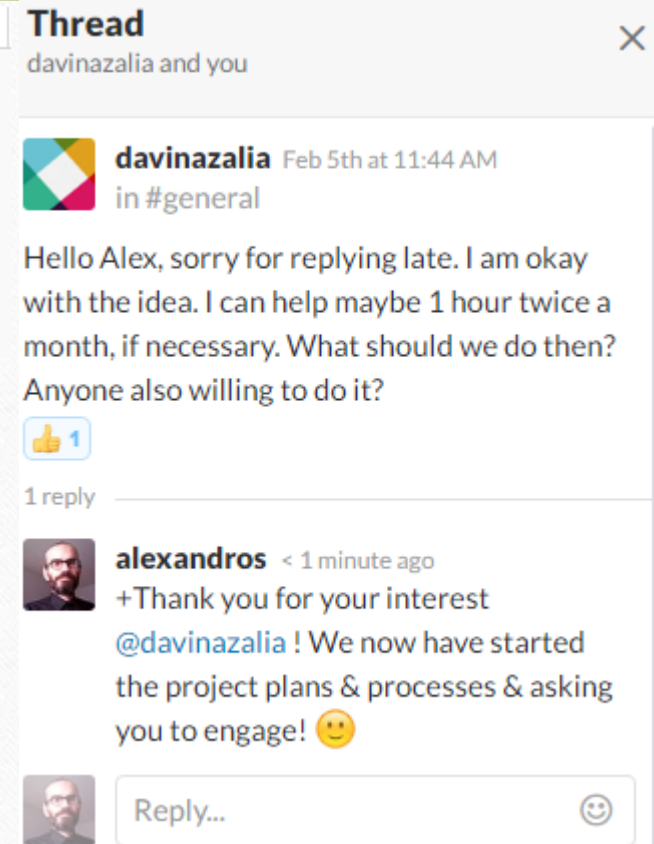
-  alexandros (you) 
-  otnomis 
-  agnes 
-  aify 
-  amgriialva 

Channelled Communication

- Threads
 - organised & focused message replies
 - side conversations



A screenshot of a Slack message from user **davinazalia** sent at 11:44 AM. The message text is: "Hello Alex, sorry for replying late. I am okay with the idea. I can help maybe 1 hour twice a month, if necessary. What should we do then? Anyone also willing to do it?". Below the message, there is a thumbs-up reaction icon with the number "1". A reply from another user is partially visible below, showing a profile picture and the text "1 reply Today at 9:39 AM".



A screenshot of a Slack thread view. The thread title is "Thread" and it is between "davinazalia and you". The message from **davinazalia** is shown in a light grey background, with the text: "Hello Alex, sorry for replying late. I am okay with the idea. I can help maybe 1 hour twice a month, if necessary. What should we do then? Anyone also willing to do it?". Below the message, there is a thumbs-up reaction icon with the number "1". A reply from user **alexandros** is shown below, with the text: "+Thank you for your interest @davinazalia ! We now have started the project plans & processes & asking you to engage! 😊". At the bottom, there is a "Reply..." input field with a smiley face icon.

Session Aim

Invitations

Channelled Communication 3/3

General Communication

File Sharing

Searching

Polling

General Communication

Session Aim

Invitations





Channelled Communication

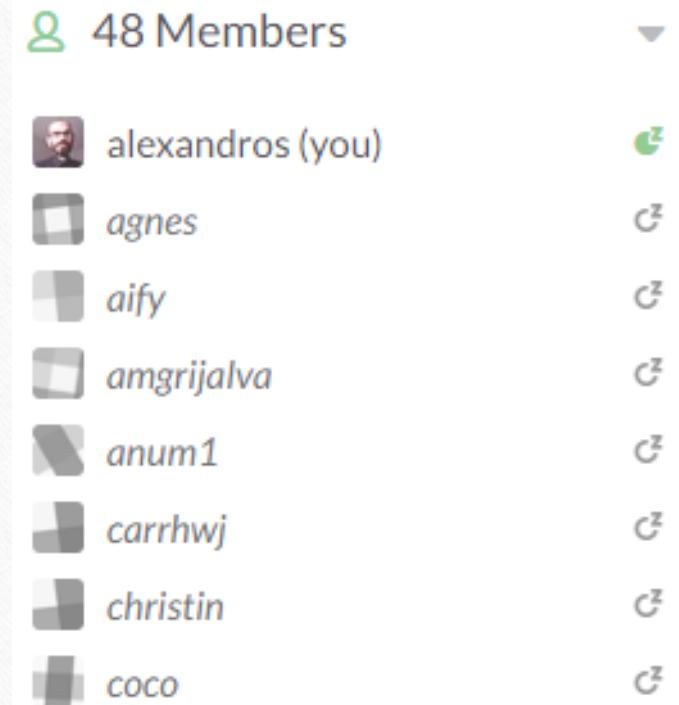
General Communication 1/3

File Sharing









Searching

Polling

- Team member names
 - written in lower-case
 - mentioned by a preceding @ which sends an email
- Team member status
 - active 
 - away [30+ mins not interacting with device] 
 - connecting 
 - do not disturb [scheduled hours without notifications] 



48 Members

- alexandros (you) 
- agnes 
- aify 
- amgrijalva 
- anum1 
- carrhwj 
- christin 
- coco 

General Communication

Session Aim

Invitations

Channelled Communication

General Communication 2/3

File Sharing

Searching

Polling

- Direct messages possible
- Messages can be edited or deleted after submission
- Formatted text or code as snippets



alexandros 9:57 PM

I have a session in the conference presenting our Slack team. You are very welcome to participate. Next SEC meeting: Tue 16 May, 2-4pm. It appears as termly frequency. I suggested drop-in sessions at the IOE's helpdesk. How do you find this idea? Would you be interested in spending 1 or 2h per month there accepting students?



eleanor886491 9:59 PM

That'll be great. I would like to.

★ Pinned by you




alexandros 1:20 PM

added this Plain Text snippet: **+IOE PGT StARs Basic Statistics (w/o PGCE)**

	+IOE PGT StARs Basic Statistics (w/o PGCE):					
	PGTs w/ StARs	#PGTs	STAR Coverage	#StARs	Avg StARs per PGT(w/ StARs)	
1	IOE	23	59	39%	46	0.78(2)
2	CCM	9	9	100%	12	1.33
3	CPA	1	14	7%	1	0.07(1)
4	EPS	8	13	62%	23	1.77(2.88)
5	LL	2	10	20%	3	0.3(1.5)
6	PHD	0	9	0%	0	0
7	SS	3	4	75%	7	1.75(2.33)

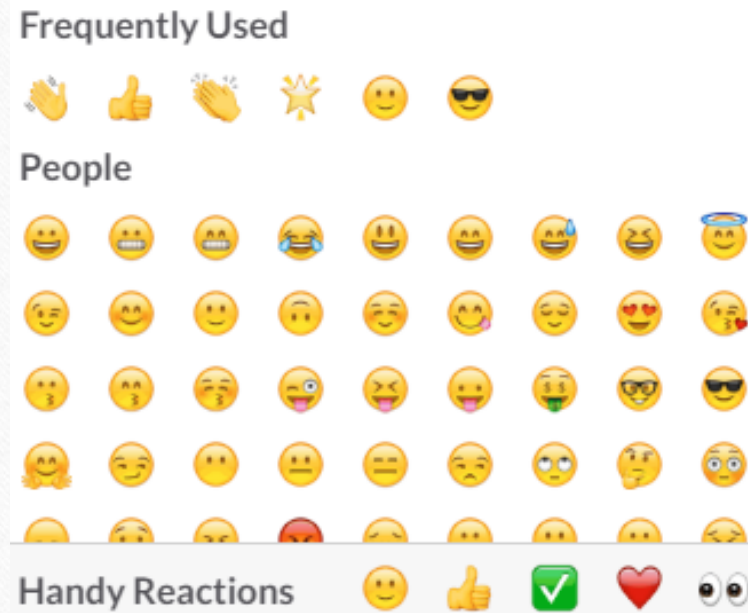
General Communication

- Important messages can be pinned to a channel
- Reactions can be added
- Welcoming: 

Frequently Used

People

Handy Reactions



7 Pinned Items

alexandros Dec 24th, 2016
+To @everyone
A draft survey has been created to collect feedback across all IOE PGT students. Please contribute your valuable

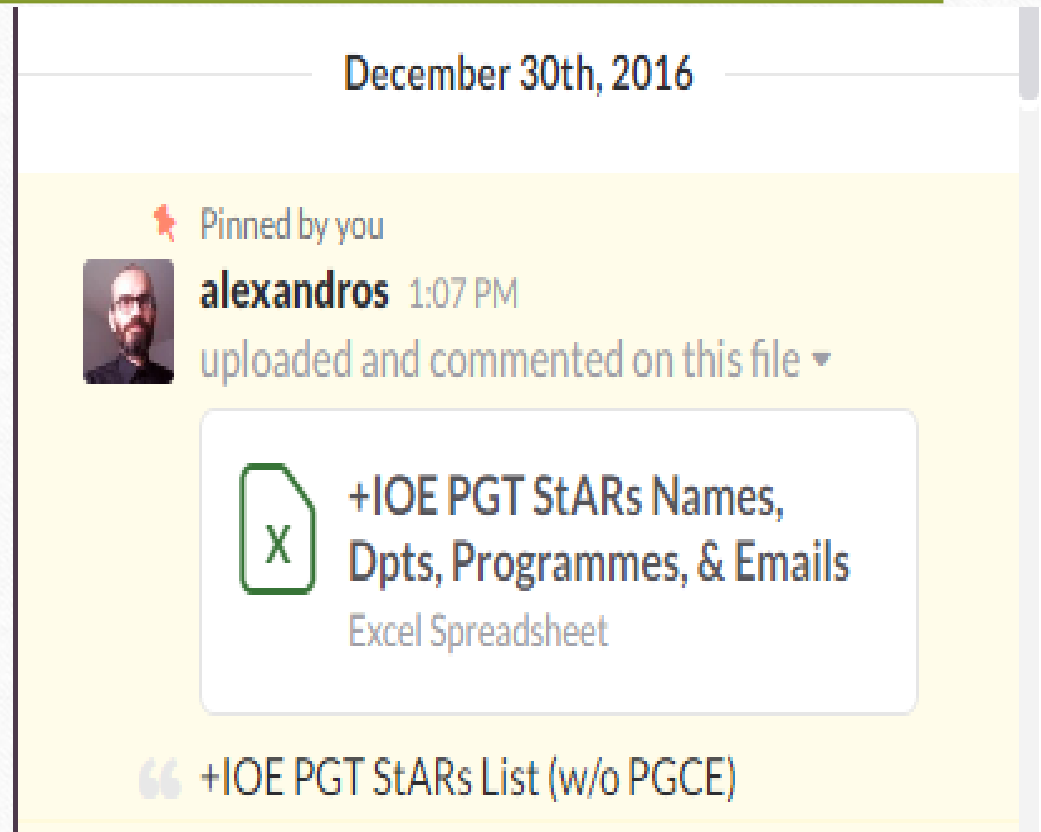
+IOE PGT StARs Basic Statist...
Plain Text

+IOE PGT StARs Names, Dpts..
Excel Spreadsheet

alexandros Dec 5th, 2016
+Improvement Suggestions:
IS1. Termly placements at schools, or educational

File Sharing

- Files can be uploaded, commented, & pinned to channels as messages.




Q StAR (x) @ ☆ ⋮


Search Results Recent Relevant X


Messages (44) Files (5)

Include: everything ▾

Top Results

 **alexandros** [Jump](#)
Feb 7th at 1:06 PM in #general
... has also expressed interest & we are waiting for more replies from 1st & new 2nd term StARs!

 **alexandros** [Jump](#)
Jan 20th at 12:15 AM in #general
+StARs 2020 Vision
Draft... [uclu.org/sites/uclu.org/files/u3832/documents/stars_2020_vision_draft_november_2016.pdf](https://uclou.org/sites/uclu.org/files/u3832/documents/stars_2020_vision_draft_november_2016.pdf)


 **alexandros** [Jump](#)
Dec 5th, 2016 at 9:30 AM in #general
+Invitation to all IOE PGT StARs... by


Q StAR (x) @ ☆ ⋮


All File Types Recent Relevant X


Messages (44) Files (5)

Include: everything ▾

 alexandros Feb 13th at 3:05 AM
+My Faculty StAR Termly Report for Term 1

 alexandros Feb 11th at 1:52 AM
ITUG minutes 09Nov16.pdf

 alexandros Dec 30th, 2016 at 1:20 PM
+IOE PGT StARs Basic Statistics (w/o PGCE)
+IOE PGT StARs Basic Statistics (w/o PGCE): PGTs w/ StARs | #PGTs | ...

 alexandros Dec 30th, 2016 at 1:07 PM
+IOE PGT StARs Names, Dpts, Programmes, & Emails
1

Searching

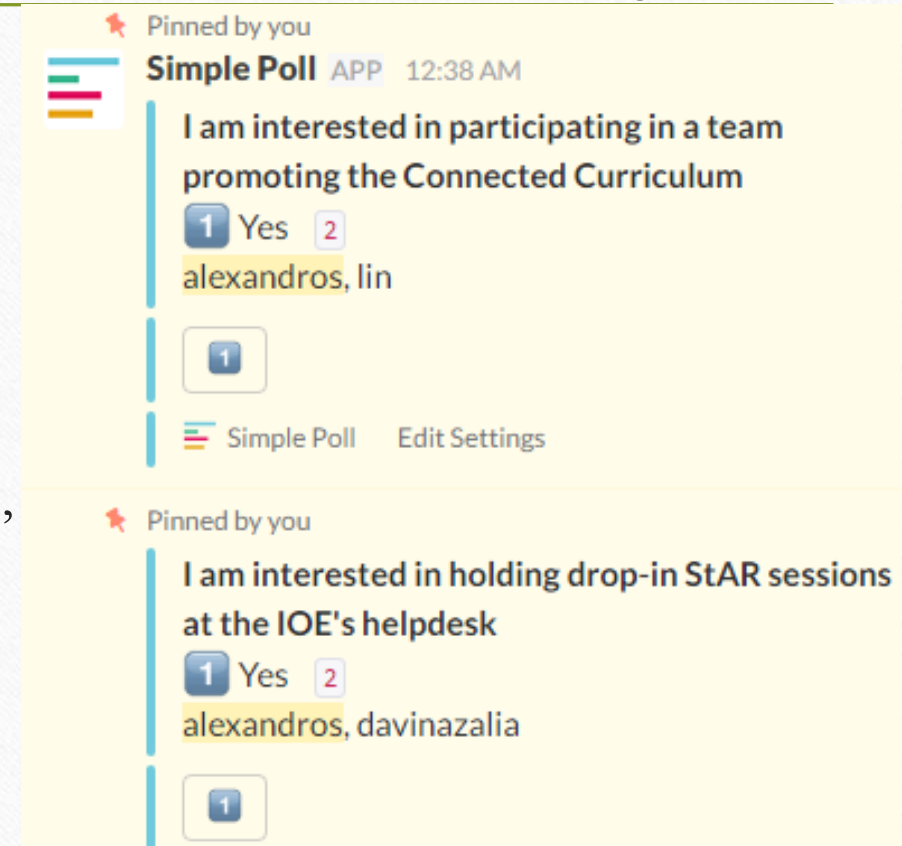
Session Aim

- Invitations
- Channelled Communication
- General Communication
- File Sharing
- Searching**
- Polling

- Searchable:
 - Messages
 - Files

Polling

- Simple Poll add-in:
Simple, native polls within Slack
- Developed by the UCLU Technology Society President
- Example command
`/poll "When are you available?" "Mon" "Wed" "Fri"`



References

- <https://ioepgtstars.slack.com> 
- <https://slack.com> 
- <https://simplepoll.rocks> 