

TEACHING MATTERS

No. 10, May/June 2015

Welcome!

Welcome to the May/June edition of 'Teaching Matters', your monthly round-up of some of the best events in the LTTC. This month features something for those interested in further study, aspiring writers and some tips to make the most of the summer!

Please visit [our website](#) for more information about any of the items here, and of course you are welcome to [contact us](#) with any questions or feedback you may have.

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Graduate Conference Tuesday 16th June

Are you interested in hearing more about the latest DIT and Irish higher education research/perspectives on important areas for educators today?

Come along on the morning of the 16th June to our annual conference event. Attendance is free and includes a light lunch. The Conference theme is *The Research-Teaching Nexus* and our Keynote Speaker will be **Dr Matthew Martin**, St. Mary's University College, Belfast, speaking on the topic "Writing as Research: Research Methods and the Writing Process". Matthew is a Senior Lecturer in English and Team Leader for Dissemination at St Mary's Centre of Excellence in Teaching and Learning (incorporating St Mary's Writing Centre). The full programme will include contributions from students in our MA in Higher Education, MSc Applied eLearning, and Postgraduate Diploma in Third Level Learning and Teaching. CPD programme participants will be awarded their Certificates during the morning.

- For more information [please see our website](#)
- Tuesday 16th June 2015
- 9.15am – 1pm
- Room 5034 in Aungier Street Campus
- Places are limited so [register soon at Eventbrite](#)



Participants at the 2014 Graduate Conference

Dublin eLearning Summer School 2015 - "Digital Agendas?" DIT Bolton Street, 22nd to 26th June - booking now open

Since 2003, the Dublin eLearning Summer School has operated as a forum for those interested in experiencing, exploring and learning more about existing and emerging learning technologies. With a unique combination of keynote speakers, seminars and hands-on workshops, participants get an opportunity to immerse themselves in the digital mindset, supported by eLearning experts from across the Irish higher-education sector. While the emphasis is on collaboration, discussion and social learning, ELSS also gives participants an opportunity to develop their personal learning networks as they discuss meaningfully, with like-minded peers, how technologies could be utilised to enhance learning, teaching and assessment experiences.



ELSS15 takes place from **22nd-26th June 2015 inclusive**, hosted in the Dublin Institute of Technology, Bolton Street Campus. Participants from both public and private sectors are very welcome!

- [PDF - draft programme](#)
- [Online registration available now](#)
- <http://lttc.dit.ie/lttc/elearning/elearningsummerschool/>
- Questions? email lttc@dit.ie or phone 01-4027866

TU4Dublin Programmes for the Future Initiative



The TU4D steering committee would like to hear your ideas!

- Applications are now sought from cross-institutional teams who are ready to make a commitment to a specific curriculum innovation. Funding and other institutional supports will be available to successful applicants to help bring your new or revised programme to the point of implementation. The proposed work is to commence Sept 2015 with new or redesigned TU4D programmes commencing 2016.
- **MORE INFORMATION:**
See [our website](#) or contact kevin.orourke@dit.ie, larry.mcnutt@itb.ie, jen.harvey@dit.ie; rosemary.cooper@itttdublin.ie

New CPD for Academic Leaders (5 ECTS, Level 9)

First Session 23rd June with follow-on sessions in September and October



- **Are you in an academic leadership role?**
- **Do you have responsibility for making decisions related to programme design, development and management?**
- **Would you like to find out more about key educational theories, policies and research to help inform decision making processes?**

This new practice-based module is tailored to meet the needs of Heads of School/Assistant Heads of School in their role as academic leaders, decision makers, strategic planners and managers within a teaching, learning and assessment context. The CPD will focus on key strategic themes aligned with meeting current HEA/DIT Compact targets, e.g. flexible learning, technology enriched learning, assessment and feedback practice and the transition into HE/first year experience.

For more information about the course and to register see <http://lttc.dit.ie/lttc/programme/cpdshortcourses/>

Consolidating our TU4Dublin 1st Year – Curriculum Redesign Workshop

Almost one hundred participants from DIT, ITB and ITTD contributed to the immersive workshop facilitated by **Ewan McIntosh, CEO of NoTosh**, on 12th and 13th May 2015 developing design thinking ideas from last year in the creation of a new first year experience that will characterise our Technological University learner transition into higher education.

40 projects were identified under the eight themes: *Induction/early Orientation, First 5,6 or 7 Weeks, Peer Mentoring, Assessment and Feedback, Graduate Attributes, Students/autonomous Self-directed*



Participants at the Curriculum Redesign Workshop with Ewan McIntosh

Learners, Learning Spaces – virtual and physical and Alternative Curriculum Models.

These will be supported under the auspices of the TU *Reimagining the Curriculum* strand.

Enhance the Student Experience at the TU4Dublin – Developing our Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy



The three institutional presidents **Professor Brian Norton, Dr Mary Meaney, Thomas Stone** and the incoming **DITSU President Graham Higginbotham** welcomed over 60 delegates to the two-day interactive Liquid Café style workshop facilitated by **Professor Mick Healey**, HE Consultant and Researcher and Emeritus Professor at the University of Gloucestershire, UK. The event took place on 21st and 22nd May 2015 at St Laurence's, Grangeegorman.



The outputs from the sessions will be developed into a set of recommendations under key themes: *assessment for learning, widening participation, enhancing graduate attributes, building digital capacity, flexible learning, student engagement, embedding sustainable development in the student experience, lifelong and lifewide learning and multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary learning*. Please [see our website](#) for more information.

Applications for LTTC Programmes **Closing Date 30th June**



- Interested in exploring new methods and techniques for your teaching?
- Want to know more about how new technologies can transform learning experiences? The LTTC's accredited courses could be for you!
- **Applications are currently open for all of our programmes with start dates in September 2015:**
 - **MA in Higher Education**
 - **MSc in Applied eLearning**
 - **Postgraduate Diploma in Third Level Learning and Teaching**
 - **CPD Short Courses**
- To find out more, [please visit our Programmes page](#) or contact any of the Programme Co-ordinators for more details.

Research Corner

The LTTC is delighted to note that **Dr Roisin Donnelly** together with **Dr Geraldine O'Neill** (Teaching & Learning, UCD) and our former LTTC colleague **Dr Marian Fitzmaurice** have been awarded Paper of the Year for 2014 by the *International Journal for Academic Development*.

The paper is entitled "Supporting programme teams to develop sequencing in higher education curricula". The journal publishers, Routledge, Taylor & Francis, have made the article freely available for a fixed time. To access and download it, please visit <http://amf.so/12XQe>



Presentation of Postgraduate Diploma Students' Practitioner Research Projects

Students on the Postgraduate Diploma in Third Level Learning and Teaching have recently completed group practitioner research projects as part of their second module. Diploma students are asked to undertake research to investigate issues in teaching, learning and assessment both within and across disciplines.

Three groups presented their projects in May, addressing the following topics:

- *Authentic Assessment: Making Assessment Meaningful for Students*
- *Using Learning Preferences to Inform Module Design*
- *An Undergraduate Peer-Mentoring Programme for International Students at DIT*

Short "lightning" presentations of these projects will be included as part of the [LTTC Graduate Student Conference on June 16th](#).

To find out more about the Diploma group projects or about the Postgraduate Diploma in Third Level Learning and Teaching, please [contact us](#).



The three groups who presented their work

News from the National Forum



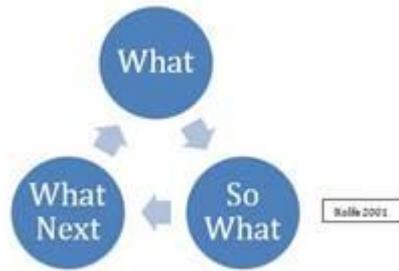
Mapping professional development pathways for those who teach in Irish higher education: Where are we now and where do we want to go?

- The National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education is seeking your feedback to their Professional Development Consultation for the establishment and management of a professional development framework for those who teach in Irish higher education.
- DIT coordinated a consultation session on 22nd April 2015 with **Dr Terry Maguire**, National Forum Director.
- For full information on the consultation documents and to respond to the consultation [click here](#).
- **The closing date for your input to the DIT submission has been extended to 4th June, contact your local Head of Learning Development or email Jen Harvey (jen.harvey@dit.ie)**

Applications for National Teaching Expert Awards 2015 – closing date for College Submissions 4th September 2015 (Details to follow)

- The Teaching Expert Award system will recognise a diversity of expertise and impact in teaching and learning across the higher education sector. All higher education institutions have been invited to nominate individuals or teams whose expertise has had an outstanding impact on learning among students in higher education.
- The DIT submissions will be coordinated through the four Colleges.
- Details about the Awards and the Awards process are available from [the Forum website](#)
- DIT application details/shortlisting criteria to follow.

Teaching Tip of the Month: Reflection and Planning



Rolfe's (2001) Model of Reflective Practice

As the academic year draws to a close, now is a good time to reflect on the year, and on teaching:

- What are the **important experiences** you recall from teaching during this year, and how can these be re-considered now to help you plan for next year?
- **What data can support our reflections on teaching?** Student feedback is one valuable resource: you might have received end-of-module or end-of-programme feedback at this stage. How does this compare with [national data from ISSE](#)? Meanwhile, in the UK, survey results about the academic experiences of over 15,000 students [have just been published](#). [This report in the Times Higher](#) highlights one finding, indicating that students valued teaching qualifications amongst their lecturers very highly.
- **The key third step in reflecting is planning what to do next:** this might involve learning more about some aspect of teaching, assessment, e-learning or educational research.
- **Why not check our [courses, events, workshops and programmes](#) for something that would help you achieve your goals?** We look forward to hearing from you and would be happy to discuss what might suit best for you.

Teaching Matters will return in September



We wish colleagues an enjoyable Summer!

CONTACT US!

We welcome enquiries and your feedback to lttc@dit.ie