

TEACHING MATTERS

No. 15 January 2016

Welcome

Welcome to the January *Teaching Matters* digest, and Happy New Year to our readers. In this edition, we look forward to a lively semester with many events coming up across the Institute. We also encourage you to visit our Open Sessions and find out more about our programmes for 2016-17. Remember to check [our main website](#) for more information about any of the items here or on the blog, and of course you are welcome to [contact us](#) with any questions or feedback you may have.

Learning and Teaching: A Celebration of New Thinking!



What's happening in terms of new thinking across DIT, ITTDublin and IT Blanchardstown? A lot! And we are delighted to be hosting a "celebration of new thinking" in DIT Aungier Street at **1pm on Monday 1st February**. The exciting initiatives to be celebrated and announced include:

- [Change 1 thing campaign](#)
- [First Year Experience prototype projects](#)
- [Programmes for the future](#)
- Launch of National Forum-funded ePortfolio project
- Widening Participation Annual Fund Projects
- [Fellowships 2015-16 – launch of the current year's fellowships](#)
- [Fellowships 2014-15 – launch of the Fellowships Report](#)
- [HEIT Conference 2016 announcement](#)

If you are involved with, or interested in, any of these initiatives please come along!
[find out more >>](#)

CPDs prove popular with more options available!



Over 36 participants have now commenced a CPD module at the LTTC this January. The four module topics proving very popular are **Assessment and Feedback; Learning, Teaching and Assessment; Supervising Undergraduate Dissertations and Projects,** and **Trends in eLearning Technologies**. If you are interested in some of these topics but were unable to commit to a full CPD module, there are workshops / guest lecturer sessions relating to these and other topics coming up shortly:

- **Rethinking Feedback Practices in Higher Education: A Peer Review Perspective**, Tuesday February 16th, 9.30am to 12 noon, Keynote Presentation and Workshop facilitated by **Professor David Nicol**
- **Students as Researchers – Linking Teaching and Research Throughout the Curriculum**, Tuesday March 1st, 11am to 1pm. Facilitated by Professor Stuart Hampton-Reeves.
- **Registration for both events is via EventBrite – [details here](#)**

There are also comprehensive **Resource Packs** available on many topics at the LTTC website <http://www.dit.ie/lttc/resources/lttcresourcepacks/>

Details of other CPD modules which will commence in September are already available on our CPD website.

[find out more >>](#)

Research and Scholarly Conversations – next webinar on 29th February 2016



The LTTTC's webinar series will continue this semester, with opportunities to hear about current doctoral pedagogic research and scholarship taking place across the TU4D. These webinars are scheduled to allow busy academics to drop in online to a 45 minute lunchtime slot and engage with the researcher about their topic. The second webinar will be presented by **Nevan Bermingham** of the School of Hospitality Management and Tourism, and will take place on **Monday 29th February 2016**
[find out more >>](#)

Dr Jen Harvey – presentation to Oireachtas Joint Committee on Education and Social Protection



Jen was invited to speak to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Education and Social Protection on **Wednesday 20th January 2016** on the topic of the quality of teaching in higher education. The full discussion can be seen on [Oireachtas TV](#) and some points raised were followed up the [Irish Times](#)

LTTTC Programmes Open Sessions – Wednesday 9th March 2016, 1-2pm and 5-6pm



Join us at the LTTTC, 5th floor Aungier Street, on Wednesday 9th March at lunchtime (1-2pm) or in the evening (5-6pm) to find out all about the LTTTC's programmes.

Applications are now being accepted for our [Postgraduate Diploma in Third Level Learning and Teaching](#), [MSc in Applied e-Learning](#) and [MA in Higher Education](#). These exciting, innovative and award-winning programmes are tailored for today's busy academics and practitioners who are seeking to update or develop new skills and strategies that can enhance their students' learning. All programmes use student-centred methods, combining face-to-face sessions with online, interactive activities so that you can easily fit study around your work and/or other commitments. Programmes commence again in September 2016.

To register for either Open Session please email lttc@dit.ie

Don't miss our two National Forum Seminars in February and March!



The LTTTC are delighted to announce that booking is now available for the two upcoming seminars from guest experts funded by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. The seminars will address **Peer Assessment** and **Students as Researchers**.

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First Year Tutors Light Lunches



Are you a 1st Year tutor or involved in teaching 1st years? If so, we hope you have had the chance to join a 'light lunch' in October or November. [Further lunches are underway this semester](#). As well as lunch, you will have the opportunity to meet and chat with other first year tutors, meet face to face with members of the DIT Campus Life, Access and Student Services and get useful information on the services available to your students and the relevant contact details, discuss strategies for referring students to the services available, discuss good practice and identify opportunities for collaboration and synergy.
[find out more >>](#)

Changes in the LTTTC Team



The LTTTC team welcomed **Victoria McEvoy** in November 2015. Victoria will be working part-time as part of the job-share with **Dr Pauline Rooney**, and undertaking a range of e-learning development projects. **Welcome Vicky!**

Meanwhile, **Dr Kevin O'Rourke** has joined the [National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning](#) on a nine-month secondment from the LTTTC. Kevin's role will involve taking forward the Digital Roadmap with colleagues across the sector. We wish Kevin an enjoyable posting to the Forum!

Teaching Tip of the Month – Up Periscope!



Twitter's live streaming app, **Periscope**, has had rapid uptake since its introduction in 2015. Educators have been pondering the most effective ways it might be exploited in teaching, and as a tool for active learning in classes.

Potential activities could include connecting with external experts in the subject area, running icebreakers, or getting students to interview each other. **Sue Beckingham** has published [some useful ideas for Periscope on her blog](#).

The LTTTC will also be trying out Periscope for part of the **Celebration of New Thinking** event on Monday 1st February. If you are following any of the LTTTC team on Twitter, or use our hashtag **#ditlffc**, you'll find the details there on the day – join us!

CONTACT US!

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