

TEACHING MATTERS

No. 4, November 2014

Welcome!

It's a busy time for all just now, but this is a great way to keep in touch with what is happening in learning and teaching around DIT! As always, don't forget to check the [LTTC website](#) for further details of all of the items in this latest edition.

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Save the Date!

The 15th Annual Showcase of Learning and Teaching Innovations will take place at the Aungier Street Campus on **Wednesday 14th January 2015.**

Please Save the Date!
More details to follow shortly on our website.

January 2015			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
			1
2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29
30	31		

CPDs for Semester 2: Four starting in January 2015!



Assessment and Feedback (5 ECTS)

Do you feel your current assessment methods are being challenged by increased numbers or diversity of student skills within your classes? Would you like to make research informed changes to the way you assess and provide feedback to your students? This CPD module will provide you with the opportunity to explore the nature of assessment and feedback within the HE context. Drawing upon relevant theory and shared knowledge, participants will develop skills to be able to reflect upon their current assessment and feedback practice and to undertake a module assessment redesign. **Guest speakers** include **Sue Bloxham** (emeritus Prof of Academic Practice, University of Cumbria and co-author of *Developing Effective Assessment in Higher Education – A Practical Guide*)

When: Tuesday mornings 10am-1pm: Jan 27th, Feb, 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th



Supporting Virtual Communities - Online

If you are moving towards some form of online teaching in the future and would like to experience for yourself what it is like, without having to jump in at the deep end, then this is the module for you! For even the most experienced classroom teacher, teaching online requires a thoughtful transition to the new environment. This online module will explore the development of a virtual learning community by equipping practitioners with the knowledge, competencies, experience and confidence to perform the complex role of an eTutor in a fully online environment.

When: Webinars with Invited Guests - Tuesday mornings 10-11am: Jan 27th, Feb, 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th



Supervising Undergraduate Dissertations and Projects

Are you keen to either develop or refine your skills in undergraduate supervision? This module will include strategies for supervisor development at all levels of experience and aims to deepen and extend the study and exploration of good supervisory practices at undergraduate level. Guest speakers include **Professor Gina Wisker** (Professor of Higher Education & Contemporary Literature), University of Brighton, noted for her seminal texts in 2005 and 2009 respectively – *The Good Supervisor* and *The Undergraduate Research Handbook*.

**When: Wednesday mornings 10am-1pm:
Jan 21st induction session, Mar 3rd, 10 & 24**



Learning, Teaching and Assessment

This is a practical module designed for staff who may have been teaching for a number of years and are interested in taking a fresh look at their approach to teaching. You may not have time to commit to our Postgraduate Diploma or Masters programmes but would like to get an insight into learning theories, practical strategies to engage students and try out a new strategy within a micro-teaching format. We strongly recommend attending the LTTC Showcase on January 14th to kick-start your learning and completing a short pre-module task.

When: Thursday mornings 10am-1pm: Jan 22nd, Feb 5th, 19th & March 5th with online activities and attendance at our Showcase

How do I apply for these short courses?

To apply, please use the [online application form](#) and, if you are eligible, ensure that you complete a fee waiver form for the module fee - guidelines on the fee waiver process are [available here](#).

Further details on Continuing Professional Development courses are available on [our website](#).

Research Corner

Jennifer Byrne and **Lisa Donaldson**, both recent graduates from our **MSc Applied eLearning**, have had their MSc research published in the latest issue of **AISHE-J**, the journal of the **All Ireland Society for Higher Education**:

- Read [Jennifer's paper](#)
- Read [Lisa's paper](#)

Roisin Donnelly from the LTTC has this month presented her research in professional academic development at the London International Conference in Education and the work has been selected for publication as an extended paper in the **International Journal of Technology and Inclusive Education (IJTIE)**, 4(1).



Higher Education Policy CPD

12 DIT staff have joined participants studying for the MA in Higher Education to undertake a 10 ECTS Higher Education module. The Module is structured around a series of guest speaker seminars, group based tasks and online activities. Guest contributors include **Dr Angelito Calma**, (University of Melbourne,) **Orla Christle** (National Office Access into HE), **Mary Doyle** (Department of Education and Skills), **Prof Ellen Hazelkorn** (DIT, HEA), **Brigid McManus** (formerly Department of Education & Skills), **Professor Sarah Moore** (National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning) **Professor Brian Norton** (DIT), **Dr Muiris O'Connor** (HEA) and **Lewis Purser** (Irish Universities Association).

12 Apps; 12 Consecutive weekdays; 12 great ideas; 10 minutes a day.
Are you ready?



Participants in the Higher Education Policy Module

The 12 Apps of Christmas, starting Dec 1st, is for anyone interested in experiencing, exploring and learning more about integrating mobile learning technologies into their teaching, learning and assessment practices. It will also give you an opportunity to expand your personal learning networks and connect with others online via twitter at **#12appsDIT** who are also interested in this emerging field.



This initiative will run for only 12 consecutive weekdays so it's taking a slightly different approach to continuous professional development (CPD) than you might have been involved in before. And the best bit is...it's free and open so anyone can join in.

To register, and for further information on how the 12 days will be run, see the [12 Apps website](#). If you have any queries or questions please contact [Frances Boylan](#).

Webcourses Training 17th December

- Three Webcourses workshops are available on **Wednesday 17th December**, including an Introduction to Webcourses, a drop-in and consultancy at Bolton Street, and how to make the best of the Grade Centre. Full details are on [our website](#).
- **Our Workshop programme is constantly updated. You can find out more on [our website](#).**

Teaching Fellowships 2014-15 Launch



Colleagues and Fellows from ITTDublin at the launch



Fellows from DIT at the launch

- On Tuesday, October 21st, **Dr Muiris O'Connor**, HEA, launched the 2014-15 DIT Teaching Fellowships. This year, colleagues were joined by five new ITTD Teaching Fellowship recipients. **Dr Brian O'Neill**, Director of Research, Enterprise and Innovation Services, welcomed attendees on behalf of DIT. **John Vickery**, Registrar at ITTD, provided an outline of the Tallaght Teaching Fellowship process.
- DIT Teaching Fellowships provide the opportunity for staff to participate actively in enhancing the student learning experience. DIT has supported 50 Fellowships to date. Past teaching fellowship reports are available through <http://arrow.dit.ie/>
- More information about the 2014-15 Teaching Fellowships is available from [our website](#).



Congratulations to the DIT applicants who were successful in obtaining funding for four seminars from the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching Learning & Assessment. Details of these follow.

Applying academic knowledge to real world situations – Community engaged learning and research as an enabler to transition from higher education to employment and/or further study

- **Thursday January 8th 2015** in DIT Grangegorman, 10am to 2pm.
- The programme includes a workshop facilitated by **Nicola Buckley** who oversees public engagement events such as the annual Cambridge Science Festival and the Cambridge Festival of Ideas as well as the Cambridge Community Knowledge Exchange, which matches research requests from civil society organisations with student dissertation opportunities leading to community-based research projects.
- [Please register here by Friday December 12th](#)

“Apps and Gaps”. Student and lecturer perceptions of how apps can promote successful transition to first-year undergraduate study

- **Friday 27th February 2015** in DIT Kevin Street
- Get Smart! is a bottom-up, curriculum-led approach which integrates modules, and improves students’ academic engagement and career readiness. It is now emerging into a ‘first-year experience’ programme with features such as ezines and a new app. In this context and against the background of the “wired classroom” and the National Digital Strategy for Ireland, there is considerable focus on using apps to promote student engagement, successful transition and academic performance.
- [More details at the Forum website](#)

Supervising Undergraduate Dissertations – Facilitating the Transition to the Workplace or Further Research

- **Tuesday 3rd March 2015** in the LTTC Aungier St, 11am to 1pm.
- This workshop aims to make new and current undergraduate research project supervisors aware of current good practice in supervising students with an emphasis on ensuring a smooth transition to the workplace or further study. The opening 2 hour session will be facilitated by **Professor Gina Wisker**, Professor of Higher Education & Contemporary Literature and Head of the Centre for Learning and Teaching at the University of Brighton and author of “The Undergraduate Research Handbook”.
- [More details at the Forum website](#)

DIT received funding for a fourth seminar in collaboration with Institute of Technology Carlow: Learning to Learn at College – Students transitioning to reading, writing and knowledge creation at third level

- **Friday 6th February 2015** at DIT Grangegorman
- This seminar will address the challenges facing students transitioning to third level, including critical thinking, information literacy and academic writing. Students often struggle with finding, using and managing information appropriately, affecting how they engage with reading material and how they evaluate and present findings from their readings.
- Inputs will include best practice from IT Carlow, DIT, ITT Dublin, and Maynooth University, with a visiting keynote speaker (to be confirmed).
- [More details at the Forum website](#)

Academic Writing Centre Launched

DIT Academic Writing Centre (AWC) is open for business!

The first students have visited the recently established AWC Kevin St location to obtain advice on their academic written work. The Centre provides a free service to all DIT students (undergraduate and postgraduate) Tutors are specially trained to support students' development of the necessary skills to be able to manage and complete all forms of written academic work.

The Centre was officially opened on 25th November by **Prof Sarah Moore**, chair of the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning. Sarah met Maria Jose, the Centre coordinator, and also academic writing tutors Keiron Fletcher and Eoin Mulvany.

<http://www.dit.ie/awc/>



AWC Tutors Keiron Fletcher and Eoin Mulvany join Prof Sarah Moore, Maria-Jose Gonzalez, John O'Connor, Graham Higginbotham, Brian O'Neill and Kevin Lalor



Prof Sarah Moore



Maria-Jose Gonzalez, Graham Higginbotham and John O'Connor at the launch of the AWC

Teaching Tip of the Month



November is Academic Writing Month, and as you can see from the newsletter, there are various LTTC events showcasing this. If you are unable to attend these, [here are some ideas](#) for setting targets etc for your writing; and some useful tips can be found in [this blog](#) both for your own writing processes and in supporting your students.

CONTACT US!

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