**LEARNING & TEACHING UNIT KEY ACTIVITIES 2015 2016**

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| **Academic Year 2015/2016** |
| **Postgraduate Diploma in Learning, Teaching & Assessment** |
| Certificate in Learning & Teaching (15 ECT) |
| Certificate in Action Research for Educators (15 ECT) |
| Certificate in Technology Enhanced Learning (15 ECT) |
| Certificate in Formative Assessment Feedback (15 ECT) |
| Implementing a UDL Curriculum (5 ECT) |
| Capstone Module: Reflection, Action & Evidence Review (5 ECT) |
| **Other key development events 2015-2016:**   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | The Learning and Teaching was awarded funding by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning for the What works and Why? Project: <http://www.teachingandlearning.ie/digital-enhancement-funding/showcasing-and-developing-digital-capacity-tel-week-projects-febmarch-2016/technology-enhanced-learning-what-works-and-why-2/>  From 7th to 11th March 2016, the AIT L&T Unit held a number of Technology Enhanced Learning Events to coincide with the National Digital Capacity Week across the HE sector.   * Enhancing Feedback using Rubrics in Turnitin and Moodle (Geraldine McDermott/Nuala Harding) * Moodle Step Up 1 - using glossary and databases (Geraldine McDermott) * Technology Enhanced Feedback Approaches (Lisa O’Regan & Morag Monroe, Maynooth University) * Google Apps: using Google Apps for student collaboration and co-operative learning (Luke Fannon & Geraldine McDermott) * Moodle Step Up 2 - using Moodle Quizzes as an assessment tool: gapfill, MCQs and calculated questions (Geraldine McDermott & Noel Tierney) * Universal Design for Learning (UDL) - using advanced PowerPoint to create interactive resources (Michael McMahon) * Universal Design for Learning (UDL) - using advanced PowerPoint to create interactive resources (Michael McMahon)   **Additional supports were provided for the What works and Why? awardees:**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Project Lead** | **Title** | | Ann-Marie Fitzpatrick | Technology Enhanced Teaching within the Clinical Practice Setting | | Nicole McKenna | Animate – ideas worth sharing | | Dr Jason Palframan | Exploring the use of the Flipped Classroom with Learning and Development for Higher Education (LDHE) | | Dr. Teresa O’Hara | Using Audience Response Technologies (ART) to Enhance Student Engagement and Learning | | Catherine O'Donoghue | Orientation to Academic Writing | | Michael O’Rourke | Using OERs, PERs, Blending and Flipping to Deliver a Computer Systems Module for Year 1 Students | | Dr. Anne Mulvihill | iPads as Virtual Hard Back Notebooks – science students documenting their own learning experience | | Diane Patterson | Comparison Digital Mediums for use within the Online Classroom | | David O'Hanlon | Evaluating the "Virtual Enterprise Hub" | | Shane Feeney | BYOD Classroom | | | **AIT L&T Unit National Seminar funded by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning**  Dr. Peggy O’Neill, Professor of Writing Loyola University presented “**Assessing and Evaluating Writing – Defining what ‘good’ writing looks like across the disciplines”.** (14 June 2016) | | Learning & Teaching Unit Annual Showcase (14 June 2016) Show and Tell presentations by AIT staff undertaking action research projects:-   * *‘Can you hear what I’ve just written?’ Using Texthelp for Academic Writing*   Miriam Croke, Faculty of Science   * *Learning about Teamwork Assessment*   Joe O’Brien, Faculty of Engineering   * *Group work and its’ impact on teaching practice and on the students’ learning experience*.   Eileen Lane, Faculty of Science   * *How do we support students to become independent learners?*   Kirpa Chandan, Faculty of Science  Technology Enhanced Feedback Approaches (14 June 2016) (Nuala Harding & Seamus Ryan)  In order to support Phd and Ed D researchers training in the software package Nvivo for Qualitative Research was held on 20 May and 13 June 2016 supported by the Professional Development Committee.  **Additional Ongoing Staff Development: -**   * New Staff Induction Programme - the two-day staff induction programme piloted in September 2015 and subsequently approved by the Executive Management Team and will be offered at the start of each academic year to all new appointees. * Academic Module Manager in preparation for programmatic review * Examination Workshops * Student Diary Pro – software for monitoring and assessment for students on placement * Classroom technologies including Moodle, , eAssessment and online learning * Developing Assessment Rubrics * Curriculum Design   **Educational Research**  The AIT Learning and Teaching Unit is a collaborative partner on the The Supporting Transition: Enhancing Feedback in First Year Using Digital Technologies (Y1 Feedback) project funded by National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning[**http://y1feedback.ie**](http://y1feedback.ie)  Two key contributions to the feedback literature were published by the project team in 2016:  **Y1Feedback (2016). Feedback in First Year: A Landscape Snapshot Across Four Irish Higher Education Institutes. Available from:** [**http://y1feedback.ie**](http://y1feedback.ie)  **Y1Feedback (2016). Technology-Enabled Feedback in first Year: A Synthesis of the Literature. Available from:** [**http://y1feedback.ie**](http://y1feedback.ie)  The Learning and Teaching Unit was involved in a successful collaborative bid under the National Forum’s discipline specific funding call. The project “Exploring ways to enhance practical assessment using digital technologies in Science and Health programmes: the Technology Enhanced Assessment Methods (TEAM)” is led by DKIT and involves IT Sligo and IT Carlow.  The Learning and Teaching Unit conducted an evaluation of the Academic Writing Centre (AWC) which was established in 2015. The aim of the study was to evaluate this new initiative which sought to promote excellence in academic writing, to determine the benefits offered and challenges faced by the service to date, and to seek information would help develop and improve the service. Approval was sought from and granted by the AIT Research Ethics Committee for the research. It was conducted using an online student survey and focus groups and individual, semi-structured interviews with academic staff, all of which took place in the institute throughout May 2016. The ensuing report presented to the Executive provided the justification for additional resourcing for the AWC. | | **External Representation**  Education Matters Yearbook, Editoral Team representing the IoTI. Link: <http://educationmatters.ie/education-matters-yearbook/> | |

**Conferences and dissemination activities**

“Y1Feedback: Technology Enhanced Feedback Approaches for First Year”. O’Regan, L., Munro, M., Maguire, M., Harding, N., Brown, M., McDermott, G., Gallagher, G., Cranny, D., McKevitt, C., Ryan, S. SEDA Spring Teaching and Learning and Assessment Conference 2016, The Carlton Hotel, Edinburugh, Scotland, May 12-13th 2016.

‘Making the transition to third level - different voices and different experiences’, Harding, N., Ryan T. and Walsh, A. National Forum Seminar, Global Room, Hamilton Building. Trinity College Dublin, February 26th 2015.

# “Exploring ways to enhance practical assessment using digital technologies in Science and Health programmes: the Technology Enhanced Assessment Methods (TEAM) project approach” Bree, R., Healy, E., Maguire, M., Faller, D., Harding, N., Mulvihill, A., Brazil, D., Dowling, D., Akande, A., Bird, J., Doyle, D. EDTECH The 17th Educational Technology Conference of the Irish Learning Technology Association. Law Society, Dublin, Ireland, May 26th – 27th 2016.

“Y1Feedback: Technology-Enabled Feedback Approaches for First Year” O’Regan, L., Harding, N., Brown, M., Maguire, M., Munro, M., Gallagher, G., McDermott, G., Ryan, S., Cranny, D., McKevitt, C., Farrell, O. EDTECH The 17th Educational Technology Conference of the Irish Learning Technology Association. Law Society, Dublin, Ireland, May 26th – 27th 2016.

“VLEs – What Lecturers Want and Do”. Farrelly, T., O’Grady, M., Rafetery, D., Risquez, A., Harding, N., McAvinia, C., Costello, E., McSweeney, D., Logan-Phelan, T. EDTECH The 17th Educational Technology Conference of the Irish Learning Technology Association. Law Society, Dublin, Ireland, May 26th – 27th 2016.

‘Supporting Transition: Enhancing (Assessment) Feedback in First Year using Digital Technologies. A Current Practice Review.’ O’Regan, L., Walsh, E., Brown, M., Maguire, M., Gallagher, G., Harding, N., & McDermott, G. The Online, Open and Flexible Learning Conference, Hagen, Germany, 29-30 October 2015.

‘A Flexible Approach to Transforming Academic Professional Development, Harding, N., Fannon, L., Mcdermott, G., McMahon, M., Palmer, M., Russell, M. The Online, Open and Flexible Learning Conference, Hagen Germany 29-30 October 2015.

‘Retention and Transitions – Addressing the Challenges and Opportunities’, Ginty, C. and Harding, N. Keynote presentation at the Limerick Institute of Technology staff development day, February 12th 2015.