



University of the
Highlands and Islands
Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd
agus nan Eilean

Learning and Teaching Developments

Quarterly updates from the Learning and Teaching Academy and
Educational Development Unit

Welcome to Issue 10 of Learning and Teaching Developments - the quarterly newsletter from the Learning and Teaching Academy (LTA) and Educational Development Unit (EDU) at the University of the Highlands and Islands. This newsletter provides updates across areas including educational practice, scholarship and research, and current and forthcoming events, projects and initiatives from the EDU, LTA and other parts of the university. This newsletter is being circulated to colleagues who have engaged with the LTA and EDU through events or projects, although we hope you consider sharing this more widely. Colleagues who aren't already signed up to receive this newsletter can email lta@uhi.ac.uk and request to be added to the newsletter mailing list.

In this issue...

[LTA Scholarship Fund: Successful projects awarded funding](#)

[Staff Development Fund](#)

[Enhancement-led Institutional Review](#)

[University Graduate attributes](#)

[University's engagement with the Advance HE Aurora Leadership Development Programme](#)

[Optometry teaching team support](#)

[NTF/CATE](#)

[Mentoring - call for mentors](#)

[Mentoring Circles](#)

[Alpine Successes from last year](#)

[Analytics](#)

[Essential Student Skills](#)

[Supporting Learning Online](#)

[Upcoming LTA Events](#)

[Educational Leadership Symposium](#)

[Assessment and Feedback Symposium](#)

[External Professional Development Events](#)

[Jane Steele - Welcome](#)

LTA Scholarship Fund: Successful projects awarded funding

The Learning and Teaching Academy awards a small number of scholarships each year to enable university staff to undertake relevant education-related scholarship and research. This year, the panel agreed to support the following projects:

- A mixed-method analysis of student perceptions and attainment when empowering students to act as co-creators in their learning



by means of a flexible assessment menu Project lead: Shari Kane (Perth College UHI)

- Off-campus learning and teaching by video conference. Project lead: Dr Simon Clarke (Shetland College UHI)
- Reflective practice- awareness and use in UHI. Project lead: Dr Rob Bray (Argyll College UHI)

All scholarship recipients will undertake research working towards publishable outputs in education-related academic journals and conferences and will deliver an LTA Connect webinar on their findings next academic year.

More Information

Staff Development Fund

The [staff development fund](#) welcomes applications from academic partner colleges and executive office departments for funding contributions to support colleagues to undertake accredited professional development programmes of study. More information, including a guide to the fund and application forms, is available on the [Staff Development Fund web pages](#). A briefing session for colleagues responsible for staff development funding application can be arranged on request by emailing LTA@uhi.ac.uk.

Supporting accredited learning opportunities is an essential element of building professional capacity along with the many other enhancement activities provided by the Learning and Teaching Academy. These programmes of study add significant value to the institution through both the professional development of the individual and the potential impact within teams, departments and across the institutional. During the last academic year, the Staff Development Fund Review Panel approved 41 out of 56 applications, including supporting the undertaking of 5 PhDs; 23 Masters; 7 Post Graduates programmes of study. Almost 60% of funding was for internal programmes of study.



More Information

Enhancement led Institutional Review (ELIR)

The Enhancement-led Institutional Review (ELIR) is an external review of higher education co-ordinated by Quality Assurance Agency Scotland (QAA Scotland). All universities in Scotland are reviewed on a four-year cycle and focus on the effectiveness of institutional approaches to improving the student learning experience. The University, through the ELIR Steering Group, chaired by Rhiannon Tinsley is currently gathering evidence to support the drafting of a detailed self-evaluation (Reflective Analysis) to be submitted in Summer 2021. Over the coming months, steering group members will be contacting colleagues and students seeking input to the Reflective Analysis, such as examples of practice and developments during the four-year review period. More information on the [University's Reflective Analysis 2016](#) the QAA outcome report and one-year follow up reports are available [here](#).



QAA
Scotland

More Information

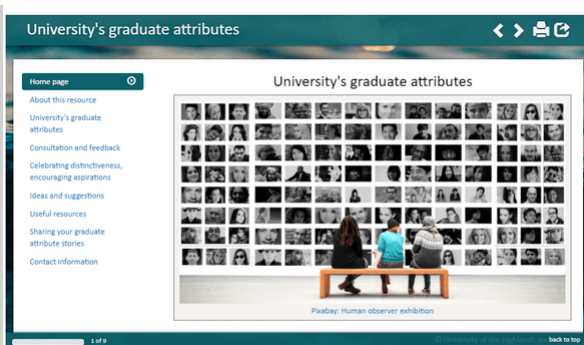
University Graduate Attributes

Engagement with the graduate attributes has continued with colleagues sharing their

experiences on [Your graduate attribute stories](#). These shared stories highlight the many ways that the graduate attributes can be used to support students to engage in reflection, dialogue and personal development planning. Recent story additions include a collaboration between [HISA](#), the [Careers and Employability Centre](#) and the LTA to support class and student representatives to use the graduate attribute reflective activity cards to regularly and critically reflection on the skills they have gained through their representation roles and the piloting of the BSc Oral Health Sciences Graduate Attributes Portfolio by Elizabeth Hall, Lews Castle College, an approach which could be replicated in other curriculum areas.

A new resource on using the graduate attributes has been created for the Supporting Learning Online Module in Brightspace. The resource includes links to resources on the graduate attributes and suggests ways to create learning opportunities to develop specific attributes and highlights the mapping of the graduate attributes to the [Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy \(LTES\) values](#). This mapping provides illustrative examples for each of the five attributes.

[More Information](#)



University's engagement with the Advance HE Aurora Programme

The university's engagement with the Advance HE Aurora Leadership Development Programme has entered its third year with applications for the six places on the 2020/21 Advance HE Aurora Leadership programme closing on 16 September. Successful applicants will undertake seven inter-connected online development sessions between November 2020 and March 2021. More information on the programme is available from [Advance HE Aurora Leadership Development Programme webpages](#).

Previous year's Aurora participants continue to engage in a range of leadership development opportunities including the creation of an action learning set; taking part in the LTA Connect webinar: 'All About Aurora' in September and presenting to the University's Women's Network on their Aurora experiences in December. They continue to support new Aurora programme participants through mentoring. The evaluation of the engagement in the programme continues, with ethical approval for the LTA to undertake a small research study on the on the University of the Highlands and Islands participation in the Advance HE Aurora Leadership Development Programme. This will provide valuable insights for both the university and wider sector on embedding the programme within an institution.

[More Information](#)

Optometry teaching team support

The new BSc Honours Optometry Degree team have been engaging with a range of learning and teaching enhancement opportunities as they prepare and start to deliver the new programme. They have attended events and LTA Connect Webinars; signed up to the EDU/ LTA newsletter and registered for the University Mentoring Scheme. The mentees have already indicated that the mentoring relationship will not only provide valuable support in meeting their goals, it will also help them integrated into the university and



build a sense of belonging. Head of the Optometry Team, Alison MacPherson said:

"For a new team developing an innovative new undergraduate optometry degree programme, both the LTA and EDU have been invaluable. The resources that we have been able to access via EDU have provided us with creative solutions to enhance the delivery of teaching as the modules have been developed, making for an enhanced learning experience."

"The optometry team come from a variety of backgrounds, both clinical and academic and being able to access the wide range of LTA resources has meant they have, and continue to, feel supported in their individual roles. This has been particularly important during COVID 19, where they have been able to become part of a community and feel less isolated whilst working remotely."

[More Information](#)

The National Teaching Fellowship Scheme (NTF), the Collaborate Award for Teaching Excellence (CATE)

The university, through the Learning and Teaching Academy, is expanding the range of professional recognition opportunities open to colleagues. To this end, the university is entering [The National Teaching Fellowship \(NTF\) Scheme and the Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence \(CATE\)](#) for the first time.

Run by Advance HE (formerly the Higher Education Academy), the NTF Scheme celebrates and recognises individuals who have made an outstanding impact on student outcomes and the teaching profession in Higher Education (HE). CATE recognises and rewards collaborative work that has had a demonstrable impact on teaching and learning and highlights the key role of teamwork in Higher Education.

NTF and CATE are amongst the highest profile awards in the UK sector for innovation and excellence in Higher Education learning and teaching and are open to colleagues in any role in the university who have made a significant contribution to student learning and outcomes and can demonstrate its impact above and beyond their immediate context.

Although the deadline for proposals of interest has now past for this Academic Year, colleagues are encourage to find out more information on the selection process, timeline and support for nominees by watching a recording of an NTFS/CATE introduction session, by clicking below.

[More Information](#)

Mentoring - call for mentors

The [University Mentoring Schemes](#) scheme is open to new, early career and more experienced colleagues as both mentees and mentors working in the areas of learning and teaching, research and scholarship in Further and Higher Education.

As the scheme grows it is important that we have enough mentors to meet the varied aims and objectives of mentees registered on the scheme. We welcome mentors who can offer mentoring



around [any areas outlined for each mentoring strand](#).

Please email mentoring@uhi.ac.uk if you would like more information on becoming a mentor. No experience necessary, guidance and support are offered to all mentors.

[More Information](#)

Mentoring Circles



In April and May 2020, the LTA with colleagues from the academic partnership, coordinated mentoring circles to support colleagues in FE and HE in the move to online learning and teaching. We are now looking for mentors to support new mentoring circles in 2020-21 around specific topics. Mentoring circles offer a confidential space (no recording!) whereby up to three mentors facilitate discussion and share their own experience around the topic of the mentoring circle. Each topic will be explored across a small number of mentoring circle meetings to develop knowledge and ideas with the participants.

Explore the topics for 2020-21 and for more information on the how to volunteer to be a mentor click the more information button below.

[More Information](#)

ALPINE successes

A number of colleagues were recognised with Fellowship of the Higher Educational Academy (HEA) from Advance HE through the university framework ALPINE, in recognition panels held in June and September.

David Gourley, Perth College UHI
Fiona Cumming, Moray College UHI
Fiona Gunn, Inverness College UHI
Graham Wilson, Moray College UHI
Hayley Barnett, Perth College UHI
Jodie Salmon, Moray College UHI
John McLuckie, Executive Office UHI
Jolene Young, Moray College UHI
Kerry Hannigan, Perth College UHI
Khristin Fabian, Perth College UHI
Laura Hobbs, SAMS UHI
Lesley Mickel, Inverness College UHI
Scott Connor, Executive Office UHI
Tom McCallum, Moray College UHI



To see if you are eligible to apply and to download the registration form please click the more information button.

[More Information](#)

Analytics



Following approval of an institutional analytics position paper and recommendations by QAEC on the 27th August the LTA are now progressing with the formation of a project group to advance the ethical use of learning analytics across the university partnership. The group will be chaired by Professor Edward Abbot-Halpin, Principal of Orkney College, and lead by the LTA with the assistance of stakeholders including staff, students and external agencies.

Learning analytics hold promise of, among other things, enhanced learning and teaching practices, lower attrition and increased student success and according to the [2020 Horizon Report](#) is one of the top 6 emerging technologies and practices (from a field of over 130) that will have a significant impact on postsecondary teaching and learning. This development builds on previous work undertaken by staff and students across the partnership and will support the Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy values 'evidence based educational practice', 'supporting the learner as an individual' and 'reflective practice and continuous improvement'. Through supporting evidence-based approaches to enhancing learning and teaching, and further innovating our curricula and educational practices, the development of learning analytics will also contribute to the university's mission 'to have a transformational impact on the prospects of our region, it's economy, it's people and its communities'.

[More Information](#)

Essential Student Skills

Since its creation, the **Essential Students Skills (ESS)** suite has been used throughout UHI as the hub for inductions. Usage statistics show annual growth, year on year; however, it was felt that the ESS suite was in need of an improved interface, some additional content and a search function. The new interface (no change to url: <https://induction.uhi.ac.uk/>) will function on all operating systems and device types, catering to all users from FE to PG. Tiles represent the detailed resources. Hovering on a tile shows a summary of the content; clicking opens that resource in a new tab.



[More Information](#)

Supporting Learning Online

EDU continues to provide support to all teaching staff via the [Supporting Learning Online space](#) in Brightspace. To date almost 1000 staff from across the partnership have engaged with the content in the space with a further 400 attending webinars about Brightspace, Webex, etc. EDU encourage all teaching staff to check back regularly for new content as well as further webinars and invite staff to share their best practice advice so it can be showcased in the [section on reflections and advice from fellow instructors](#). Contact edu@uhi.ac.uk with any queries about the Supporting Learning Online space and best practice examples.



[More Information](#)

Upcoming LTA events

The Learning and Teaching Academy Team are delighted to share the 2020-2021 LTA Events Programme.

Visit the LTA Events page for more information and booking for semester 1 events, including webinars, workshops and larger events, open to all colleagues across the university partnership.

[More Information](#)



Educational Leadership Symposium



Aimed at those interested in developing their educational leadership practice, the symposium will explore the nature of educational leadership in the context of professional practice. Co-designed and facilitated with Allane Hay, Deputy Head of Academic Partnerships based at Moray College UHI and Jean Ward, Programme Leader for the MEd Specialist Qualification in Headship and MEd Educational Leadership and is based at Orkney College. The symposium will include a series of short webinar presentations and collaborative activities aimed to explore and identify strategies to build the leadership awareness, capabilities, and confidence.

Visit the webpage below for more information about the event, presenters, and to view the programme.

[More Information](#)

Assessment and Feedback Symposium

The theme for the LTA's third Assessment and Feedback symposium is Inclusive Assessment. Inclusive assessment (IA) means considering all aspects of assessment - from development of marking criteria to method and mode of feedback – to ensure that no students are excluded. Although originally focusing on students with disabilities, IA now means examining where implicit and unconscious bias could marginalise any students and eliminating this for the benefit of all students.

Our keynote speaker this year is Dr Pauline Hanesworth from SRUC who will be leading a workshop entitled 'A Social Justice Model for Assessment'. The event will also feature sessions led by colleagues from across the university sharing their practice.



[More Information](#)

Spotlight on External Professional Development Events

There are several free Professional Development events taking place outside of the University. Here are some examples, please click on the event name for further information:

[Advance HE: BUILDING RESILIENT LEARNING COMMUNITIES: USING EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS](#)

QAA Scotland is delighted to announce that the next International Enhancement Conference will run online from 3-5 November 2020.

Building Resilient Learning Communities: Using Evidence to Support Student Success will allow delegates to share innovative learning, tools and practice drawn from the Enhancement Themes and across the globe.

[College Development Network Virtual Bridge Webinars](#). Bringing you expert advice on how to deliver Learning and Teaching Online.

Friday 25 September Digital Accessibility - A Journey.

Tuesday 29 September - Microcredentials in the Time of Covid.

[#LTHE CHAT - The weekly Learning and Teaching in HE chat created by the community for the community – #LTHEchat](#)

Wednesday 8-9pm GMT.

Next event: Wednesday 30th September.

[Pearson - Keep Active Learning Going During Remote Instruction](#)

October 14, 2020, 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. ET

Keep your students engaged and motivated during remote instruction by bringing in active learning. This session will show how to take your existing in-class activities (or new activities) and easily adapt them to the online environment.

The above list is only a spotlight on some of the events available, please visit all of the above websites to view their full list of available events.

Resources

[JISC - Digital Learning in FE Teaching Toolkit](#)

This Toolkit offers support and guidance on how FE teaching practitioners can use digital learning resources effectively to enhance learning and teaching.

Jane Steele - Welcome

Please welcome Jane Steele to the university. Jane joined the Learning and Teaching Academy (LTA) on 4th May in the new post of Information and Communications Assistant. Jane supports the team in the organisation and delivery of events, webinars, professional accreditation, scholarship development and staff development funding review panels. Jane also assists with supporting the maintenance of the LTA's digital and social media presence and the marketing and communications activities of the LTA.

Jane worked for BASI (The British Association of Snowsport Instructors) for 3 years previous to joining the team which involved close links with education and decided to apply for the job at UHI to explore her interests within education, along with her passion for event management and marketing. Jane also also studied a HNC in Events Management at Robert Gordon University in 2019.



Under normal circumstances, Jane would be based in An Lochran.

Contact Jane at jane.steele@uhi.ac.uk.