

Learning and Teaching Developments

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

Welcome

Welcome to Issue 3 of *Learning and Teaching Developments* - a joint newsletter from the Learning and Teaching Academy (LTA) and Educational Development Unit (EDU) at the University of the Highlands and Islands. We'll be using this newsletter to provide quarterly updates from the LTA and EDU across areas including educational practice, scholarship and research, and current and forthcoming events, projects and initiatives. Going forward we will highlight interesting learning and teaching developments from 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.

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New Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy now live

The university's new Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy 2017-2021, which was introduced at the Learning and Teaching Conference in June, is now officially live and beginning to be implemented. The Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy is a values-based strategy designed to provide a 'common language' to support the development, sharing, and enhancement of learning, teaching and assessment practice across the university. The strategy was developed through extensive consultation and review across the university. It is intended to complement and extend learning and teaching policy and practice within and across the Academic Partners of the university. It also provides a means to both recognise existing good practice and to develop our future practice.

[More information](#) and to find out how the strategy is being implemented.

Assessment and Feedback Symposium: 15th and 16th November



We are currently finalising details of this two-day symposium, which will feature a selection of webinars and workshops. The programme will include the LTA Connect Webinar that Dr Alex Buckley (University of Strathclyde) will be offering on the 16th November on the topic of Staff and Student Perceptions of the Value and Quality of Feedback. Further details will be confirmed and circulated by mid-October.

[More information](#) on the LTA Connect Webinar: Staff and student perceptions of value and quality feedback.



New platform to help potential Masters students

On 15 and 16 June 2017, Perth College UHI was the venue for the latest meeting of the Access to Masters (AToM) project. Scott Connor and Jacky MacMillan from the Educational Development Unit hosted guests from the University of Borås (Sweden), the University of Alcalá (Spain), colleagues from UHI, and Glasgow based company Digital Connexions. The AToM project has developed a platform that will enable potential Masters students to assess their suitability for a specific course prior to full

application. The platform will be piloted in the next semester.

[More information](#)

Making effective use of real-time environments - Teaching with synchronous technologies symposium: 15 December 2017



This one day online symposium will explore best practice in using synchronous technologies for learning and teaching (including Videoconferencing and Blackboard Collaborate Ultra) to engage our students and meet their diverse needs within the distributed context of the university.

We are now inviting proposals for sessions of the following kinds:

- **Good Practice Showcase.** An overview of your own practice with an emphasis on what works well, and providing ideas and approaches that delegates could use or adapt in their own teaching and student support activities (45 minutes including questions).
- **Seminar Session.** Exploring key issues or concepts in teaching and learning with synchronous technologies, underpinned or informed by existing, or your own, scholarship, evaluation or research (45 minutes to include time for discussion).

[More information](#) and how to submit a proposal.



Announcing funding call for LTA Scholarship Fund 2017/18

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. Learning and Teaching Academy Scholarship projects are often linked to current or emerging issues of particular interest to the university, or which are topical within the education sector.

The call for proposals for LTA Scholarships for 2017/18 is now open, and this year we are inviting proposals for projects to receive funding of up to £10,000 in three topic areas:

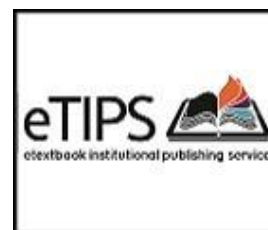
- Topic 1. Evidence-based enhancement (linked to the new QAA Scotland Enhancement Theme)
- Topic 2. Benchmarking or embedding the Learning and Teaching and Enhancement Strategy
- Topic 3. Developing pedagogic research

Proposals should be submitted by the close of Monday the **30th of October**.

[More information and application forms](#)

eTIPS paper published

eTIPS, a collaborative project between the University of the Highlands and Islands and Edinburgh Napier University as part of the JISC 'Institution as e-textbook publisher' project has had a paper published in the latest edition of the Journal of Perspectives in Applied Academic Practice (JPAAP). The paper explores the university as an e-textbook provider of scholarly work and discusses the potential for in-house e-textbooks in academic practice.



[More information](#)



Critical Perspectives blog

In our *Critical Perspectives* series of blog posts, we ask staff from around the university to write critically about a topic of interest. In the [latest instalment](#), outgoing HISA president Luke Humberstone (now President of NUS Scotland), reflects on the use of technology within learning and teaching.

If you have an idea for a future *Critical Perspectives* blog please contact [Heather Fotheringham](#).

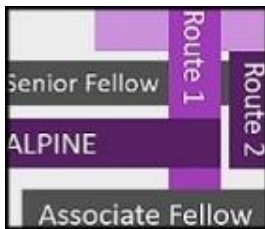
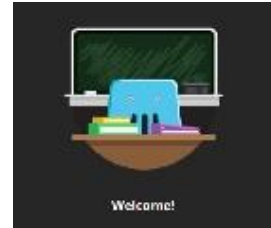
LTA Connect webinars

The Learning and Teaching Academy run monthly webinars featuring a mix of internal and external speakers.

The aim of our monthly webinars is to introduce colleagues to current and emerging developments in educational research and pedagogic practice. Recent topics have included: frameworks for enhancing VLE use, panel feedback and Critical Race Theory.

All webinars are 1200-1300 on Thursdays and run using Blackboard Collaborate so colleagues can join from anywhere with an internet connection. If you would be interested in presenting an LTA Connect webinar please contact LTA@uhi.ac.uk.

[Webinars available to book](#)



ALPINE Successes

ALPINE (Accredited Learning, Professional development and Innovation in Education) is the university's framework for the professional recognition of good practice in learning and teaching, learning and teaching support, and educational leadership. ALPINE allows the university to award colleagues Associate Fellow, Fellow and Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (HEA). Applications for Fellow and Senior Fellow were considered by a recognition panel in June 2017 and outcomes were communicated the following week.

We are delighted to announce that the following staff were recognised at the June panel:

Val Cooper, Executive Office UHI
Anne Chard, Executive Office UHI
Jacky MacMillan, Executive Office UHI
Mark Murray, Inverness College UHI
Simon Bradley, Lews Castle College UHI
Ingrid Mainland, Orkney College UHI
Andrew Dyce, Perth College UHI
Ronnie Dewar, Perth College UHI
Clive Fox, Scottish Association of Marine Science UHI
Jelena Farkic, West Highland College UHI
Charlotte Almekinders, West Highland College UHI
Miriam Iorwerth, West Highland College UHI

[More information and for a full list of colleagues who were recognised in 2016/2017.](#)

LTA colleagues present at University Conference

Keith Smyth and Heather Fotheringham presented at the recent National Student Survey (NSS) Staff Conference which brought together internal and external speakers to reflect on this year's results and to plan for NSS 2018. Other speakers included John Maher from LIS and University Librarian Ruth Priest, whose presentations reflected on how central services such as libraries and IT have a role to play in responding to, and contributing to NSS scores.



[More information](#)



Anticipating the next Enhancement Theme

The new national Enhancement Theme for the Scottish Higher Education sector has recently been confirmed as Evidence for Enhancement: Improving the Student Experience. Over the next three years, every Higher Education Institution in Scotland will undertake a programme of work related to the theme. The launch event for the new Enhancement Theme will take place in Edinburgh on the 5th of October. University colleagues in attendance will include the Learning and Teaching Academy's Keith Smyth and Heather Fotheringham, along with Dr Iain Morrison (Dean of Students) and representatives from HISA. The university's work for the new Enhancement Theme will be co-ordinated through the Learning and Teaching Academy.

Further information will follow in due course, but if you have any questions please contact Keith directly (keith.smyth@uhi.ac.uk).

Learning and Teaching Conference

The Learning and Teaching Conference, co-hosted by Inverness College UHI and the Learning and Teaching Academy, took place at Inverness Campus in June.

The event was attended by around 100 delegates, with many more colleagues joining online. It featured presentations, interactive workshops, guest talks and discussions, on various dimensions of learning and teaching, student support and educational scholarship and research. It also provided delegates with an opportunity to see the new Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy.



Photos and session materials are available on the [LTA conference webpage](#).

If you attended the conference and have yet to do so, then please spend a few minutes completing an online evaluation.

[Evaluation](#)

Beyond the University

Here's a helpful [Bloom's \(Digital\) taxonomy infographic](#) that also makes a nice poster. Copyright info on how you may use this free resource is on the [Global Digital Citizen website](#).

Jisc have just published a new [report on enhancing the digital learning experience in FE](#). This new publication contains senior leader interviews, case studies of effective practice and practical guidance.

LTA Connect Webinars

- **25 October, 9 November and 14 December 2017:** Professor Keith Smyth, University of the Highlands and Islands. The Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy
- **26 October 2017:** Rosie Alexander, University of the Highlands and Islands. Employability and Careers: the Highlands and Islands context

- **16 November 2017:** Dr Alex Buckley, University of Strathclyde. Staff and student perceptions of the value and quality of feedback
- **07 December 2017:** Dr Maggy Fostier, University of Manchester. PASS (Peer-assisted study scheme)
- **25 January 2018:** Dr Heather Fotheringham, University of the Highlands and Islands; Research Teaching Linkages

[More information and to register](#)

This newsletter is edited by Alex Walker (LTA) and Anne Chard (EDU).

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