



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

Welcome to Issue 7 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.

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International Women's Day: Friday 08 March

Friday 08 March is International Women's Day and the LTA are leading the organisation of a university-wide event to celebrate inspirational women at the university and beyond.

The day long programme will take place at Inverness College UHI and will welcome keynote speaker Dr Maren Deepwell, Chief Executive of the Association for Learning Technology (ALT) who will present a session on her experiences of working in a leadership role in educational technology. We will also hear from Professor Joy Merrell and Professor Diane Kelly from Swansea University who will talk about how their university have tackled the gender pay gap. Colleagues and students at the university will present sessions on the importance of rural work placements for women and, the Advance HE Aurora Leadership Programme and we will hear two inspirational staff and student stories.

There are still places available for remote access participation.

[More information](#)

Write-UP residential: Sunday 24 to Tuesday 26 March

The Learning and Teaching Academy are pleased to announce the second workshop to support colleagues in writing up education-related papers and publications. The Write-UP (Writing for Publication in University Practice) writing retreat will take place in Inverness from the evening of Sunday 24 March to Tuesday 26 March 2019, led by Gordon Asher who is an experienced writing retreat facilitator.



The Write-UP writing retreat is intended to provide space and support for colleagues who are seeking to write an article, journal paper, book chapter or another form of publication that is related to some aspect of learning and teaching practice, educational evaluation, or educational research.

A small number of places will be offered directly to colleagues who are working on papers to be included in the Education submission for REF 2021.

[More information](#)



LTA Connect: Employer engagement in curriculum development and employability: Thursday 04 April

Alana MacPherson, and Audrey Decou from the university Employer Engagement and Curriculum Development team will present the next [LTA Connect webinar](#) exploring the prominence of academic and employer/industry collaboration, its importance in preparing students and graduates for the world of work, and the role of the Curriculum Development and Employer Engagement Team within UHI.

If you have an idea for our LTA Connect Webinar series, either to present a session or to let us know topics that you would like to see covered then please [contact the LTA team](#).

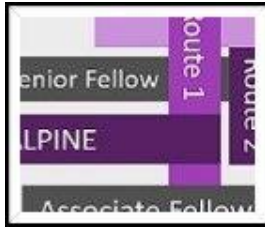
[More Information and to book this webinar](#)

Brightspace teacher education workshop

The teacher education team spent a very successful two days in An Lòchran working on the transition from Blackboard to Brightspace under the guidance of EDU instructional designer, Carolin Radkte. Carolin worked with them to take advantage of the new tools and features at their disposal. They were delighted that exporting/importing their content was much easier than expected. The EDU are looking forward to similar success when they work with the team at the Centre for History this week. Programme teams wanting EDU support with the transition to Brightspace should [contact the EDU team](#).



[More Information](#)



ALPINE: Celebrating HEA recognition

November and January saw a number of colleagues recognised with Fellowship of the Higher Educational Academy (HEA) through the university framework [ALPINE](#), for recognition of good work in supporting learning and teaching, teaching and/or leading in learning and teaching.

These colleagues were recognised in the November and January recognition panels:

Antonia Thomas, Orkney College UHI: Fellow HEA
Callum Whyte, Scottish Association for Marine Science UHI: Fellow HEA
Natalie Hicks, Scottish Association for Marine Science UHI: Fellow HEA
Oisín Plumb, Orkney College UHI: Fellow HEA
Suki Haider, Moray College UHI: Fellow HEA
Anthony Luke, Inverness College UHI: Fellow HEA
Nicola Macdonald, Inverness College UHI: Senior Fellow HEA
Jennifer Thompson-Young, Perth College UHI: Senior Fellow HEA
Sarah Sutherland, Inverness College UHI: Senior Fellow HEA

[More information](#)

AdvanceHE Aurora Leadership Programme

The university is currently funding ten colleagues on the 2018/19 AdvanceHE Aurora Leadership Programme. The programme extends the range of professional development opportunities supported by the Learning and Teaching Academy and is a fundamental part of the University's Athena Swan action plan. Aimed at those in academic and professional roles who aspire to take on leadership roles, and who identify as women, the programme combines development days focusing on 'power and politics', 'core leadership skills', and 'adaptive leadership skills'; which are supported by self-directed study; networking and mentoring.



Women in senior positions have supported the scheme by participating as mentors. In addition two of the selection panel members attended an Aurora Programme Development Day as a Role Model. Feedback from our ten programme participants has been resoundingly positive and to celebrate their involvement they will be presenting at International Women's Day 2019.

[More information](#)



Graduate attributes: Webpages launched

A [newly launched web page](#) supports further engagement with the university's graduate attributes. An infographic is also available from the web page and can be downloaded. Monthly meetings continue with the Careers and Employability Centre team which have ensured continued effective links including the promotion of events such as "The Graduate Labour Market – truths and myths". The focus of activity over semester two will be to identify a range of approaches to further embed engagement with the graduate attributes in the programme approval and re-approval process; to further alignment of the graduate attributes with the [LTES](#) and values; and with the new [Benchmarks for the use of technology in learning and teaching](#) and to create a range of resources to support meaningful engagement with the graduate attributes.

[More information](#)

LTA Funding

This year, over 40 applications have been awarded funding through the [Staff Development Fund](#), either as support for a new or continuing programme of study. Funding has been to academic and professional staff across the University and has supported studies across a wide range of levels of study from SVQ to PhD.



The [LTA Scholarship fund](#) offers up to £10,000 for individuals or teams of university staff to undertake relevant education-related scholarship and research. This year's projects run until July 2019 and findings from the research will be written up for submission to academic journals and publications. We were able to fund four bids in 2018/19:

- Co-designing palliative and end of life care education in the BSc Nursing curriculum. Project lead: Clare Carolan (Department of Nursing, UHI)
- Evaluating the longitudinal impacts of the Integrated Land Use Conference: are we influencing mindsets of current and future land managers? Project lead: Euan Bowditch (Inverness College UHI)

- Archipelago of adventure: What are the main limitations and constraints in creating a multimedia based qualification for delivery in the South Pacific? Project lead: Donna Heddle (Orkney College UHI)
- Students as partners: Creating a collective responsibility for course evaluation and improvement. Project lead: Catriona Meighan (Inverness College UHI)

We look forward to reading the outputs of this research, and also to hearing from each of the projects as part of our [LTA Connect](#) webinar series.



LTA Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

The Learning and Teaching Academy will be supporting the establishment of a small number of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) focused on specific aspects of learning and teaching practice and research. SIGs will allow interested colleagues to come together to share and explore current practice, generate ideas, and to work with SIG members and the LTA to provide input into learning and teaching related guidance and resources, to facilitate workshops and events, and to collaborate relevant research and scholarship projects.

To help get things underway Professor Frank Rennie, Lews Castle College UHI, will be founding and leading a SIG focused on the use of social media in education. Information about the SIGs generally, and a call to join Professor Rennie's SIG, will follow in the coming weeks.

Gamification: What does it mean and how can we use it?

John Buchan from the EDU has recently contributed to the LTA blog with an article looking at the definition of gamification. This relatively new pedagogical approach is often treated with suspicion in the academic realm, however if used in the right way, has proven to enhance engagement in learning in many areas.



John's blog post was inspired by a session held during university-wide [Digital Education Week](#) in which Dr Vasilis Louca from the University of Aberdeen delivered a fascinating webinar and workshop on this topic

[Read John's blog post here.](#)



New publication: Conceptualising the Digital University

The LTA's Keith Smyth has co-authored a new book with Bill Johnston (University of Strathclyde) and Sheila MacNeill (Glasgow Caledonian University), and which has just been published by Palgrave Macmillan. Titled '**Conceptualising the Digital University – The Intersection of Policy, Pedagogy and Practice**', the book critically explores the concept of the digital university and offers a number of ideas, models and frameworks for repositioning digital technology and digital education practice in relation to critical pedagogy, open education, and higher education as a public good.

[For more information on the book](#)

There is also an e-book copy of the book available through the university library.

Mentoring support for Principal Fellow HEA

Colleagues who have already expressed an interest in seeking recognition as Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (HEA), or who may be interested in exploring this as a possibility, will be pleased know that the LTA will shortly be announcing details of a new round of mentoring designed to support achievement of this important professional recognition. Colleagues who are eligible to apply for PFHEA tend to be in academic leadership roles in which they have had an impact on learning and teaching beyond the institution, in the wider sector. If you think this may apply to you, please look out of a further announcement in March.





Colleagues deliver Irish keynote

Ann Tilbury and Sorcha Kirker (HISA Vice-President) jointly presented the keynote at the National Student Engagement Programme's (NStEP) 3rd national network meeting in Ireland in November last year. Their presentation, entitled "The use of technology to empower student representation and engagement", not only highlighted the potential of technology to both empower students to take ownership of their student experience and to support our student associations but also explored how the use of technology allows our students to actively contribute to the life of the university.

[Ann and Sorcha share their experiences of presenting at the event in the LTA Blog](#)

ALT Conference 2019: Call for proposals now open!



The annual conference of the Association for Learning Technology is returning to Scotland this year for the first time since 2011. For those unfamiliar with the ALT Conference, it is an established international conference for educators, technologists, and academic leaders interested in the use of technology in learning and teaching, and the UK's leading conference in this area.

The ALT Annual Conference 2019 will be held 03 to 05 September 2019, at the University of Edinburgh. This year's conference will be co-chaired by the LTA's Professor Keith Smyth, alongside Melissa Highton (Assistant Principal and Director of Learning, Teaching and Web Services, University of Edinburgh) and Louise Jones (UK Regional Manager, Google for Education).

A fantastic line-up of keynote speakers comprises Sue Beckingham (Sheffield Hallam University, National Teaching Fellow and specialist in social media for learning), Ollie Bray (Global Director: Connecting Play and Education at the LEGO Foundation), and Jesse Stommel (Executive Director of the Division of Teaching and Learning Technologies at University of Mary Washington, and Co-founder of Digital Pedagogy Lab and Hybrid Pedagogy journal).

[For more about the ALT Conference 2019](#), including the call for papers which is open until 13 March 2019.



Assessment and feedback symposium: November 2018

Our final event of the calendar year for 2018 explored the notion of assessment and feedback for learning, and featured two keynote presentations from external speakers. Professor Peter Hartley spoke about programme-level assessment, and Dr Moira Maguire (Dundalk Institute of Technology) introduced a groupwork framework that had been implemented at her institution.

Slides and recordings from the event can be accessed from the [event webpage](#). Examples of existing innovative practice in assessment and feedback from UHI colleagues can be found in our [Good Practice Case Studies](#) page.

Looking ahead

Education Lightning Talks: Ahead of a university wide Education Symposium to explore the further development of education as an area of practice and research across the partnership, which will take place in the Autumn (dates to be confirmed), a number of colleagues will come together on Wednesday 15 May to share their practice, scholarship and research relating to various aspects of education through a series of Lightning Talks.



Mentoring for Leadership Event: [The University Mentoring Scheme](#) offers three mentoring strands in Research, Learning and Teaching Enhancement and ALPINE. Keen to develop leadership across the partnership, the mentoring team are busy organising a day long programme exploring leadership mentoring. The date will be advertised soon! We are looking for presenters to share their stories on mentoring for leadership, if you would like this opportunity to share good practice email the [mentoring team](#) for more information.

More details for both events will be emailed out in the coming weeks.

We are changing our newsletter, please look out for an email to ask if you would like to continue to receive LTA/EDU updates.

Beyond the university

The Power of White Space to Improve Screen Design in eLearning

<https://www.shiftelearning.com/blog/the-power-of-white-space-to-improve-screen-design-in-elearning>

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

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