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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

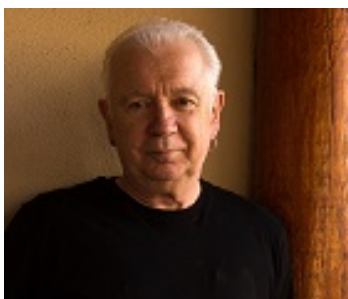
Welcome to Issue 8 of Learning and Teaching Developments - the quarterly newsletter from the Learning and Teaching Academy (LTA) and Educational Development Unit (EDU) at the University of the Highlands and Islands. This newsletter provides updates across areas including educational practice, scholarship 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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Becoming a Critical Educator Tuesday 9 July



The LTA are establishing a Critical Education Network, to be launched following Dr Stephen Brookfield's 'Becoming a Critical Educator' session on 9th July as detailed above. The purpose of the network will be to support and enable a critical exploration of the public, political and wider societal dimensions of pedagogic practice and research. Initial activities will be focused around a programme of seminars, events and networking opportunities. While the Critical Education Network will be coordinated through the LTA it is open to anyone within and beyond the university who is interested in participating. Those who would like to learn more about the network, and possibly get involved, are invited to be added to the Critical Education Network list by emailing the LTA.

[More Information](#)

Launch of the Critical Education Network

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Open Education Survey

Harnessing open education is a key value in the **university's learning and teaching enhancement strategy**. To support this value the LTA is developing an open education framework and are seeking feedback from professional services and academic staff to gauge current practice and understanding in this area. This feedback will influence the framework and assist us in supporting open education across the institution. The LTA would be grateful if you could take time to complete a short **survey**.

More information about open education and the framework can be found [here](#).

[Open Survey](#)

LTA Scholarship Fund

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. Applications for next year's 2019/2020 fund, for projects to be undertaken in the new academic year, recently invited bids within the following themes:

- Engaging online and distance learners
- Using the Brightspace LE for enhancement
- Supporting student transitions
- Continuing existing research

A number of applications were received by the deadline of Friday 14 June 2019, with funding decisions to be communicated to applicants week beginning 24th June.



[More Information](#)



Staff Development Fund

The Staff Development Fund supports colleagues undertaking formal continuous professional development and accredited learning opportunities. A small review panel meets regularly to consider applications submitted via Staff Development Officers in Academic Partner colleges or Executive Office line managers. So far, in 2018/19 the fund has supported 44 applications including eight applications for Level 12 studies; 19 applications for Masters Programmes and 11 Post Graduate programmes of study.

[More Information](#)

Unit/module Enhancement Review

The **Unit/Module Enhancement Review information site** is now live (UHI login required). The review process will help staff teaching HE modules or units ensure that their learning content meets the appropriate **benchmark category** (Threshold, Developed, Exemplar) and give their students the best experience possible. The review process will also allow the university to view the progress made in the transition to Brightspace, and meet future staff development needs. Please contact **Anne Chard** if you have any queries about the review process.



[More Information](#)

Mentoring for Research: developing your mentoring and coaching skills

Open to aspiring mentors and mentors already registered on the University Mentoring Scheme, this one day training at Orkney College UHI will support and develop mentoring skills through hands on workshops with Dr Melanie Smith, Inverness College UHI: Director of Research and Innovation and the Research Mentoring Lead.

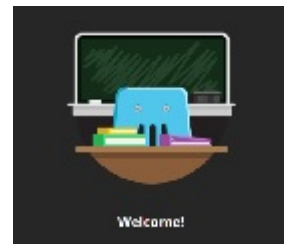
Colleagues may also be interested in the Two Day Mentoring Residential taking place at Inverness Campus on the 28 and 29 August. This two day residential will cover mentoring training for all three strands on the University Mentoring Scheme; Research, Learning and Teaching Enhancement and ALPINE. Places are fully booked, please email lta@uhi.ac.uk to be added on the waiting list.

[More Information](#)

LTA 2019-2020 Programme of Events

The LTA team are currently working on the 2019-2020 programme of events to support and showcase good practice in pedagogic practice and research.

Please complete a **webinar proposal form** if you would like to present an LTA Connect webinar or **get in touch** if you have an idea for an event that you want the LTA to explore. As well as being great fun, this kind of activity can be used to as part of an application for HEA Fellowship via the **ALPINE framework**.



[More Information](#)



University Learning and Teaching Conference: save the date!

The university will be holding a Learning and Teaching conference on **22-23 January 2020**. There will be a programme of face-to-face events in Inverness, with the opportunity to participate virtually through webinars and videoconference. Further details a full call for proposals will be published in the coming week on the **LTA events page**.

AdvanceHE Aurora Leadership Development Programme 2018/19 Evaluation

An initial Evaluation Report on the 2018/19 AdvanceHE Aurora Leadership Development Programme has been written by Ann Tilbury. The findings highlight the huge value of the programme for participants with the most highly valued aspects reported as the development days; the opportunity to build both internal and external networks and the provision of a mentor through the University Mentoring Scheme. The majority of participants have reported that the programme had encouraged them to proactively manage their career, take more responsibility within the university and to seek out leadership roles.



[More Information](#)



Advanced styling in Forge

There is a new style guide for advanced users of the Forge resource builder enabling them to add their own schemes. Advanced styling in Forge. Forge is a learning resource builder developed by Mark Wilkie of the Educational Development Unit. Forge can be accessed, using your university login credentials.

[Access Forge](#)

University Graduate Attributes: new downloadable resources

The graduate attributes are designed to support reflection, dialogue and personal development aspirations and planning. A set of activity cards have been designed to support reflective activities. These cards can be created by using the downloadable word or pdf document from the [Zooming in on graduate attributes web page](#).

There's also a "focus piece" template which provides a simple format to write up how colleagues and students are working with of the graduate attributes and support the sharing of examples from across the university. The template can be downloaded as a Word or pdf document.



[More Information](#)



Your Graduate Attribute Stories

Examples of using the graduate attributes are being collated and shared through the LTA. These examples demonstrate the many ways in which the graduate attributes can be used to support the learning experience. Two recent examples of embedding graduate attributes are Project RED where Gamekeeping and Wildlife Management students have the opportunity to work with disabled war veterans and the Curriculum Development and Employer Engagement Team's collaboration with the Scottish Institute of Enterprise (SIE) on accreditation of modules and workshops through the Scottish Innovative Student Award (SISA) programme.

[More Information](#)

ALPINE: Celebrating HEA Recognition

May 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. The following colleagues were recognised in the May:

Alana MacPherson, Executive Office UHI
Thomas Adams, Scottish Association of Marine Science UHI
Jane MacIntosh, North Highland College UHI
Lucy Huby, Moray College UHI



[More Information](#)

New round of mentoring to support applications for Principal Fellow of the HEA



Following an initial round of mentoring that supported three colleagues to achieve Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, the LTA is seeking to support a new group of colleagues in submitting their applications to the HEA for recognition as Principal Fellow HEA. Colleagues will be supported through a structured process of mentoring and application feedback, beginning early in the new Academic Year with a view to achieving recognition by Spring 2020. If you are interested in joining the new mentee group please contact lta@uhi.ac.uk to receive further information as it becomes available, or if you have any initial queries.

Presentation to Erasmus visitors

Representatives from universities in Iceland, and Serbia visited An Lòchran on 29 March where Heather Fotheringham and Ann Tilbury from the Learning and Teaching Academy gave them an overview of our work. Hosted by Professor Stuart Gibb, Vice-Principal (International and External Engagement), the visitors had also seen the Environmental Research Institute in Thurso, toured Inverness College UHI and were planning to visit a couple of distilleries on their way through the region!



Online dementia training praised by visiting Professor Eun-Hi Kong

Last month the EDU team were delighted to welcome Professor Eun-Hi Kong of Gachon University, South Korea, following the launch of a digitally-enhanced dementia education programme for nursing students. The Dementia Enhanced Practice to Promote Excellence (DEEPE) curriculum was initially designed and introduced at UHI by Dr Leah Macaden, in 2017. For the past year, Liz Hudson and her EDU sub-team, Daniel Falconer and Angus

MacDonald, have been working with Dr Macaden to design an online learning companion for the programme.

The new collection of interactive workbooks scaffold interactive materials, including a 360° simulation, across the informed, skilled and enhanced levels of the new NHS Education for Scotland/Scottish Social Services Council's Promoting Excellence Framework. Professor Kong was particularly impressed by the innovative application of learning technologies and motivational pedagogies to support self-directed learning.

Welcoming Rosie Alexander to the LTA!

Rosie Alexander has now joined the LTA as Senior Lecturer (Research). Rosie's research focuses on careers and employability education, as well as careers guidance. She specialises in the role of geographical space in education and employment pathways, and policy and practice responses to this. Rosie's interests particularly lie in island locations and small states, as well as issues of social and spatial justice. She is looking forward to taking these areas of research forward within her role at the LTA, as part of our work for the Research Excellence Framework (REF). You can find out more about Rosie and contact her via her page on **PURE**.



[More Information](#)

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