



# Learning and Teaching Developments

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

Welcome to Issue 12 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](mailto:lta@uhi.ac.uk) and request to be added to the newsletter mailing list.

### In this issue...

- [New national Enhancement Theme](#)
- [Enhancement Led Institutional Review \(ELIR\)](#)
- [New educational research publications](#)
- [UHI Aurorans stand for election as staff members of the university court](#)
- [Dr Natalie Jester to keynote at International Women's Day](#)
- [ALPINE Successes](#)
- [Staff Development Fund - Reminder of deadlines for applications](#)
- [Graduate Attributes explored at HISA Con 2021](#)
- [Call for participants in a research project about Reflective Practice](#)
- [Anatomy, Physiology and Health resources rescued and redeveloped](#)
- [New EDU resources](#)
- [Series of EDU Brightspace Webinars](#)
- [LTA Events](#)
- [External Professional Development Events and Resources](#)

### New national Enhancement Theme

QAA Scotland runs a three-year cycle of Enhancement Themes with which all Higher Education Institutions in Scotland engage as part of the national Quality Framework. The new Theme for 2020-2023 is Resilient Learning Communities and the Learning and Teaching Academy co-ordinates the University's work for the Theme. Within UHI we will run projects and initiatives as well as engaging with sector-wide projects and collaborative clusters. Enhancement Theme activity has been organised around three strands:

- Facilitating Resilient Students
- Facilitating Resilient Staff
- Creating a Resilient Institution

For this first year of the Theme, activities include: creating staff-facing resources to draw together the lessons learned from COVID-19; running workshops and creating resources for students to develop their career resilience, and enhancing student community and connectivity by providing opportunities for students to come together online both socially and academically (led by HISA)

Find out more about the Enhancement Themes on the LTA Webpage below.

[More information](#)

### Enhancement Led Institutional Review (ELIR)

The University, through the ELIR Steering Group, chaired by Rhiannon Tinsley is currently gathering evidence and drafting the Reflective Analysis to be submitted in Summer 2021. The ELIR, steering group members are seeking input from students and staff, such as examples of practice and developments during the four-year review period. More information on ELIR including a downloadable infographic can be found below.

[More Information](#)



### New educational research publications

Members of the LTA have contributed to a number of recent educational research publications, in collaboration with colleagues across the university. These relate to the current collaborative project with the Royal University of Bhutan that Keith Smyth and Alex Walker have been involved in (with Professor Frank Rennie and Dr Gareth Davies of Lews Castle College UHI), and the research-teaching linkages project that Heather Fotheringham and Keith have supported and co-facilitated (with Professor Michael Rayner, Dean of Research). Details of the publications are:

- Rayner, M., Smyth, K. and Fotheringham, H. (2020) Academics' conceptions of and approaches to research-teaching linkages: Challenges for realising the curriculum as praxis. *Journal of Perspectives in Applied Academic Practice*, Vol. 8, No. 2, pp. 25-38. Available online DOI <https://doi.org/10.14297/jpaap.v8i2.461>
- Smyth, K. (2020) Benchmarking and developing educational research: from establishing shared understandings to enhancing practice. In F. Rennie (Ed.) *Bhutan: Ways of learning and teaching* (e-book). eTIPS/University of the Highlands and Islands/Royal University of Bhutan.
- Smyth, K., Rennie, F., Davies, G. and Tobgay, S. (2020) Transnational collaboration in building educational research capacity in a new university: An applied phenomenographic investigation. *Journal of Perspectives in Applied Academic Practice*, Vol. 8, No. 2, pp. 39-49. Available online DOI <https://doi.org/10.14297/jpaap.v8i2.460>
- Walker, A. (2020) Establishing collaborative ways of mentoring: Digitally enabled and transnational approaches within distributed universities. In F. Rennie (Ed.) *Bhutan: Ways of learning and teaching* (e-book). eTIPS/University of the Highlands and Islands/Royal University of Bhutan.

### UHI Aurorans stand for election as staff members of the university court

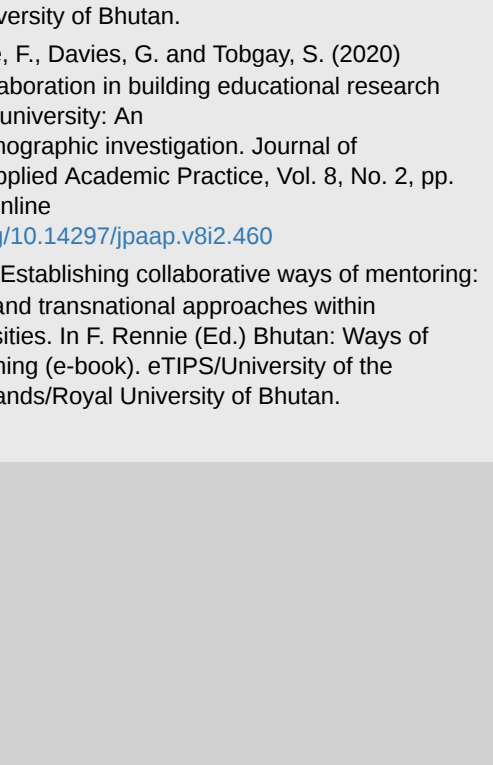
Three out of the four nominations for the election of two staff representatives to the university court are UHI Aurorans: Jane Edwards, Role Analyst (substantive role Student Engagement Officer), Perth College UHI; Rosemary McCormack, Head of Curriculum, Moray College UHI (seeking re-elected for a second term) and Anna-Wendy Stevenson, Senior Lecturer, Lews Castle College UHI all completed the Advance HE leadership development programme for women in 2018/19. Participation in Aurora aims to encourage women to apply for senior positions within the university, so Jane, Rosemary and Anna-Wendy's nomination for election is a significant endorsement of the value of the university's investment in Aurora. Comments from stakeholders on the news included:

*"That's fantastic news ... and a very nice indicator that Aurora is bringing women colleagues forward for leadership activities, roles and opportunities".*

*"Thanks for highlighting the fabulous Auroran representation in these nominations, it's so good to see that learning and development journey resulting in these applications for what is an incredibly important leadership position at this time in the University's development (and indeed the Partnership's growth). It's very satisfying to see these colleagues' step into the leadership space at this level and to signal their intent and aspirations."*

The election closed on 19 February. To read more about UHI Aurora visit the link below.

[More Information](#)



### Dr Natalie Jester to keynote at International Women's Day

We are delighted to welcome Dr Natalie Jester as our keynote speaker for this year's UHI International Women's Day event on 8 March that will explore gender equality in education.

In her keynote, Dr Natalie Jester argues that curricula are sometimes presented as obvious; that they are seen simply to fall onto the page, fully formed. This process does not occur by accident, however, and it is in this process of curriculum design that some knowledges – and some knowers – are seen to be more important than others. Following other lines of marginalisation within wider society, these omissions are often gendered and racialised, with those who are women and/or people of colour left out, and subjects important to those groups considered less worthy of space in curricula. Borrowing from studies on women's political representation, Dr Jester sets out the justification and urgency of a representative curriculum at tertiary education level. It is in response to these invisibilities and omissions that various groups such as Women Also Know Stuff and Why is My Curriculum White have been established, undertaking a form of "curriculum activism", and Dr Jester also explores the ways in which these operate, pushing for the representation that is so sorely needed.

You can find more information about this online event, along with the programme and how to register your place on the [event page](#). We look forward to seeing you there!

[More Information](#)

### ALPINE Successes

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

- Alison Harrison, Inverness College UHI, Fellow HEA
- Fiona McConnell, Inverness College UHI, Fellow HEA
- Hereward Proops, Lews Castle College UHI, Fellow HEA
- Jean Ward, Orkney College UHI, Senior Fellow HEA
- Kathleen Connor, Perth College UHI, Senior Fellow HEA
- Lucie Novoveská, Scottish Association of Marine Science UHI, Associate Fellow HEA
- Michelle Beattie, Dept of Nursing and Midwifery UHI, Senior Fellow HEA
- Nicki Brain, Educational Development Unit UHI, Associate Fellow HEA
- Pamela Douglas, Inverness College UHI, Fellow HEA

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

[More Information](#)

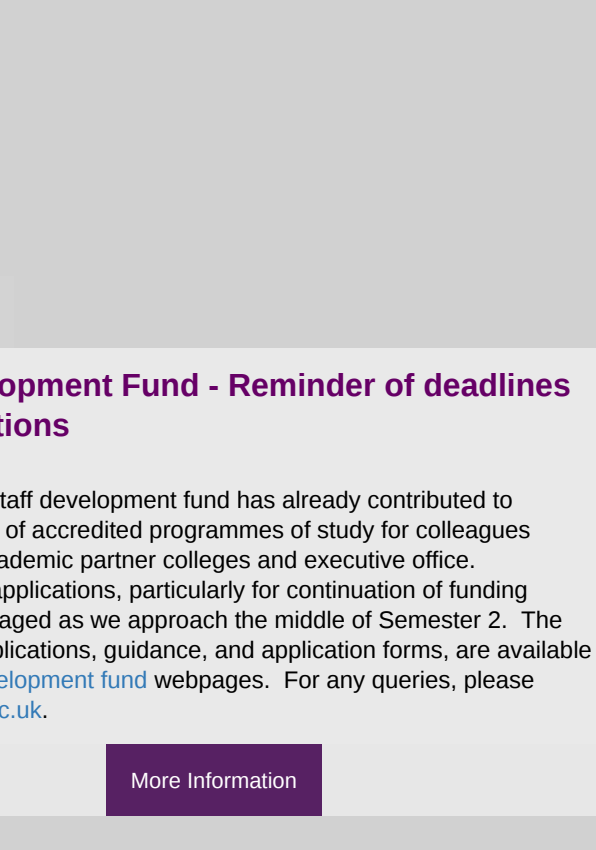
### Staff Development Fund - Reminder of deadlines for applications

The university staff development fund has already contributed to funding a range of accredited programmes of study for colleagues approved by academic partner colleges and executive office. Submission of applications, particularly for continuation of funding (SD2) is encouraged as we approach the middle of Semester 2. The deadline for applications, guidance, and application forms, are available on the [staff development fund](#) webpages. For any queries, please email [lta@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:lta@uhi.ac.uk).

[More Information](#)

### Graduate Attributes explored at HISA Con 2021

Students and student representatives joined the LTA's Ann Tilbury for a workshop at the recent HISA Con 2021 which focused on the changing world of employability. The workshop focused on how to use the graduate attributes to identify, write and talk about skills developed through their student journeys. Studying on a wide range of programmes including marine science, psychology, ESOL, Literature, Business and Sports and Fitness, participants collated the many and varied ways they had developed communications skills by using the [graduate attribute reflective activity cards](#). They shared lots of positive feedback on how useful the cards were as a lens to reflect on, identify and evidence the attributes and skills they were developing through studying. Read more about the workshop and the graduate attributes on [Your graduate attribute stories](#).



[More Information](#)

### Call for participants in a research project about Reflective Practice

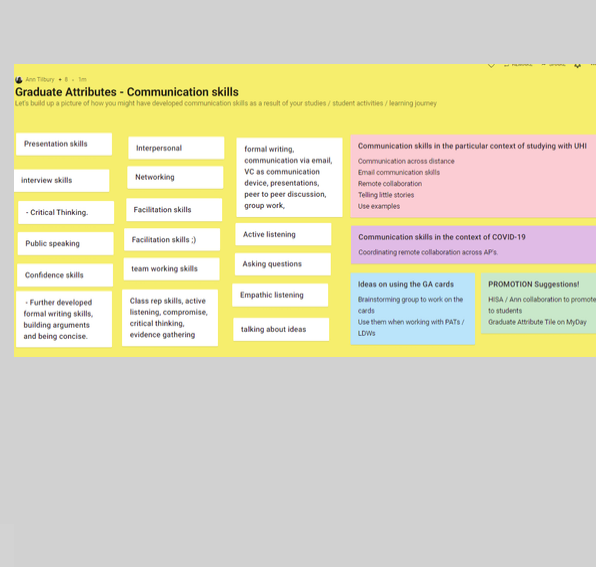
Are you a member of UHI academic staff who's interested in Reflective Practice, such as using diaries, journals, portfolios, logs, Action Learning Sets? Dr Rob Bray from Argyll College UHI is conducting a small research project funded by the LTA Scholarship Fund. Please click the more information button below to respond to this short survey.

You will also have the chance to participate in one-to-one interviews for the second stage of the project. All responses are confidential, and participants have the right to withdraw at any time, if you need any further information, contact Rob at: [rob.bray@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:rob.bray@uhi.ac.uk)

[More Information](#)

### Anatomy, Physiology and Health resources rescued and redeveloped

A popular set of 15 Anatomy, Physiology and Health learning resources, in use across a number of university programmes, has been redeveloped by the EDU. The originals were built using Flash, for which browser support ended in January this year. The resources have been redeveloped in Forge (the editing package available to all university staff) and can be accessed via the [new APH portal](#).



[More Information](#)

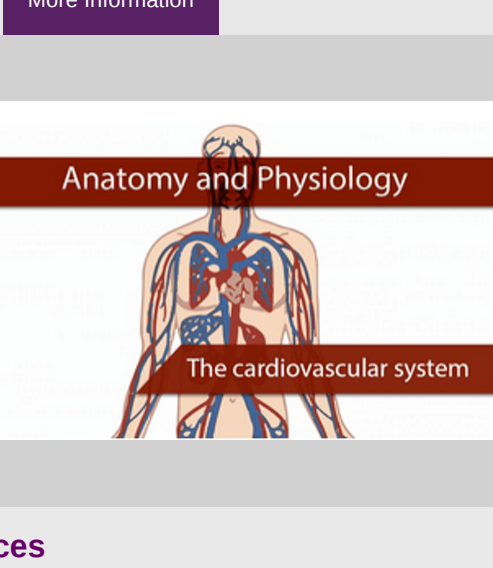
### New EDU Resources

The EDU has developed a few resources that you might find helpful. There is a comprehensive guide to the available [accessibility features in Brightspace](#). The [Student personae and accessibility](#) resource illustrates accessibility considerations from the view of the students through case studies. We have also developed a [Video conferencing and virtual classrooms](#) resource which offers pedagogical guidance and practical tips on structuring teaching sessions for VC delivery. The resources can also be found in the Supporting Learning Online Brightspace module which all staff have access to.

[More Information](#)

### Series of EDU Brightspace webinars

The EDU has put together a programme of Brightspace related webinars to help everyone move through the semester smoothly and with confidence. Sessions will be run via Webex Events which allows us to record them. More information about the topics and schedule can be found on the [Online teaching pages](#) as well as in the [Supporting Learning Online module](#) where we will also post the links to the recordings after the sessions.



[More Information](#)

### LTA Events

The Learning and Teaching Academy Team have developed a series of events so far this semester including webinars, workshops and larger events, alongside a series of events throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to support staff with the move to online learning. You can view session slides and recordings from our past events on the LTA website [here](#).

The Learning and Teaching Academy offers a number of professional development events relating to pedagogic practice and research. These are open to colleagues from across the university, and feature a range of internal and external speakers and facilitators.

#### Spotlight on our upcoming March Events:

- [Mentoring: Tales of the unexpected: Unanticipated benefits of novel mentoring partnerships](#) - 03 March
- [International Women's Day 2021](#) - 08 March
- [Mentoring: How to give constructive feedback](#) - 17 March
- [LTA Connect: Preparing for uncertainty? Investigating the development of criticality among master's students](#): 25 March

Visit the LTA Events page for more information about these events and other events scheduled for later in the semester.

[More Information](#)

### Spotlight on external Professional Development Events and Resources

#### Events

[#LTHE CHAT - The weekly Learning and Teaching in HE chat created by the community for the community](#) Wednesday 8-9 pm GMT.

The weekly Learning and Teaching in HE chat created by the community for the community.

[JISC - DIGIFEST](#) 8-11 March

Taking place in an innovative and interactive online environment across four days, Digifest 2021 will focus on learning and teaching and libraries.

An informative and interactive conference like no other, we'll be building a community of the industry's brightest leaders and practitioners. Each day will focus on one of our four key themes, with additional sessions for relevant industry topics

Further information, full programme and booking can be found [here](#). This is also a CPD accredited course.

[Online Education: Teaching in a Time of Change](#) 21-23 April

This virtual conference coordinated by Routledge, AMPS and PARADE welcomes presentations from researchers and teachers on how they operate in the 'online classroom, studio or lab' and how they function 'in the field' using the new technologies available to them.

[ALT \(Association for Learning Technology\) - CPD Webinar: Supporting academic staff in the move to online teaching](#) 3 March

This webinar is part of our 2021 CPD webinar sessions. Participants will earn an ALT CPD Open Badge which can be used as evidence towards accreditation via one of the pathways in ALT's CMALT framework. For further information about this event and other ALT events [visit their website](#).

#### Resources

##### JISC

JISC have been undertaking a great deal of work around Learning and Teaching, what the pandemic has meant for Universities and how we can better adapt to the "new normal". Please see below a summary of what JISC have been working on:

##### Learning and Teaching Reimagined

You can find more information about our Learning and Teaching Reimagined programme [here](#). This web page includes links to:

- the [final report](#) (you can also watch a recording of the [webinar](#) where we launched the report)
- near-future [scenarios](#)
- long-term [visions](#)
- examples of emerging good practice ('member stories')
- a set of primers and guides on key topics in digital teaching and learning
- the ['Digital at the Core' 2030 strategy framework](#) and accompanying [toolkit](#)

##### JISC - Digital Learning Rebooted

A report which outlines how a number of universities have adopted new and emerging technologies to respond to the pandemic and how these responses may inform a longer term, transformative vision of the student experience

##### 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.

