



Learning and Teaching Developments

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

Welcome to Issue 14 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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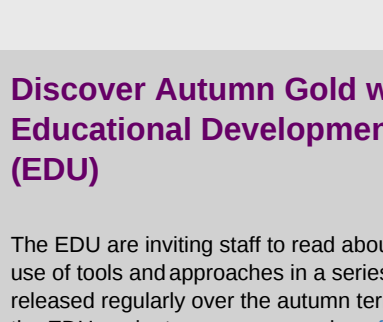
Assessment and Feedback Symposium 17-18 November 2021 - Book your place!

The LTA's fourth Assessment and Feedback Symposium will take place on 17-18 November 2021 with this year's theme being Sustainable Assessment and Feedback Practices. The event will take place online and includes a range of sessions which will allow participants to learn about the different aspects of sustainable assessment, and how these can be implemented in the classroom. Sessions include:

- A keynote presentation by Juliet Eve of Brighton University
- Douglas Barr and Tom McCallum discussing their programme-focussed approach to assessment within the Applied Software Development degree at UHI
- A Quizathon in which participants will build quizzes in Brightspace for use in formative and summative assessment
- Question and answer session with Faculty Officers to learn how they can assist staff with the quality processes which accompany making changes to assessment practices

More information and booking below.

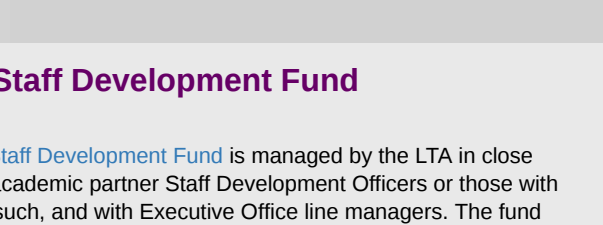
[More information](#)



Discover Autumn Gold with the Educational Development Unit (EDU)

The EDU are inviting staff to read about gold standard use of tools and approaches in a series of Light Bites, released regularly over the autumn term. Members of the EDU navigate processes such as [finding open licence images](#), and using tools like the [Brightspace ePortfolio](#). Our most recent Light Bite introduced staff to [new accessibility tool Ally](#). Make sure you join our [Yammer Group](#) where you'll get a first look at this and newly published Light Bites.

[EDU Light Bites](#)



University Staff Development Fund

The university's [Staff Development Fund](#) is managed by the LTA in close partnership with academic partner Staff Development Officers or those with responsibility for such, and with Executive Office line managers. The fund supplements approved contributions made towards a programme of study and is open to colleagues who are currently teaching and / or supporting higher education students. Applications to the fund are considered throughout the academic year. Recipients of the fund have undertaken undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD studies.

More information on the fund is available at the [staff development fund webpages](#) and a briefing session for colleagues can be arranged 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 LTA.

The LTA would like to thank existing Staff Development Fund panel members for their continued support with considering each application above and beyond their 'day job'. The LTA is delighted to welcome two new panel members: Susannah (Susie) Wilson, Curriculum Lead, Argyll College and Anne Frater, Lecturer, Lewis Castle College.

[More Information](#)

Women's Network and Reading Group

Open to all colleagues who identify as women, the first meeting for the Women's Network this academic year will focus on the menopause, exploring what is available across the partnership to support women experiencing the menopause, and where support could be improved. As with our other meetings, having time to share experiences and networking (in a confidential and safe space) will be available through the meeting. Therefore, we will have time for coffee (and mince pies) for some informal discussion.

The reading group is open to all colleagues and provides a forum to discuss books, articles and texts exploring feminism or women's experiences.

Interested colleagues should select their preferred date for one or both meetings, as well as selecting their preferred book for the next reading group meeting by completing a brief survey. Once a date has been decided it will be communicated in the [Women's Network Yammer group](#).

[More Information](#)



National Teaching Fellowship Scheme (NTFS) and Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence (CATE)

The National Teaching Fellowship Scheme (NTFS) and the Collaborative Awards for Teaching Excellence (CATE) are organised and run by Advance HE, being opened to Scottish HE sector in 2018. The NTFS and CATE are amongst the [highest profile awards](#) in the UK sector for innovation and excellent practice in Higher Education learning and teaching. 2021 was the first year that the university supported colleagues to put forward applications for these prestigious awards and we are delighted to announce that the university was awarded both a NTF and a CATE.

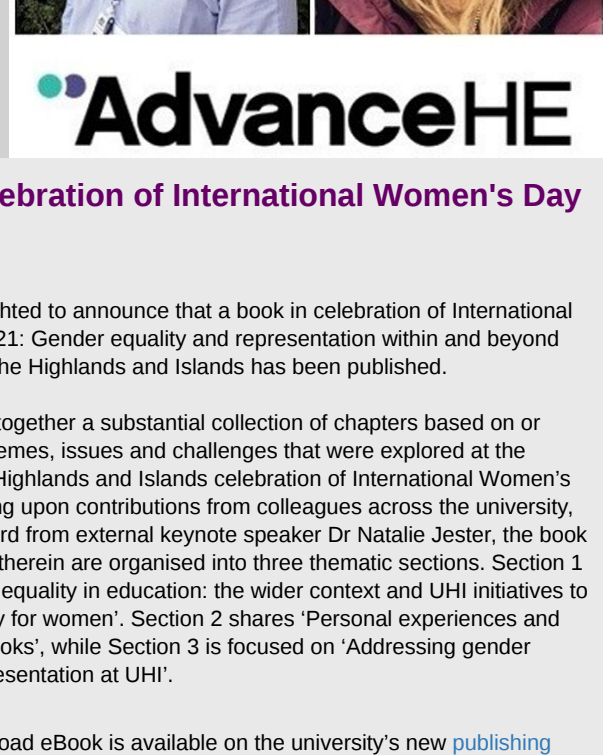
Lois Gray, Academic Lead Developer (Engineering), North Highland College UHI has been recognised as a National Teaching Fellow and that the Applied Music Team comprising Simon Bradley (Lewis Castle College UHI), Neil Davidson (Lewis Castle College UHI), Miriam Iorwerth (West Highland College UHI), Peter Noble (North Highland College UHI) Anna-Wendy Stevenson (Lewis Castle College UHI) and Andrew Wardle (Perth College UHI) have been awarded a CATE.

Read more about our winners and nominees below.

[More Information](#)

Principal Fellowship Recognitions

Congratulations to the LTA's Keith Smyth (Professor of Pedagogy and Head of the LTA) and Alex Walker (Professional Development and Recognition Lead), who were both recently awarded Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (PFHEA) with Advance HE. The LTA are also continuing to support colleagues to seek recognition as Principal Fellow HEA through direct application to Advance HE and are currently bringing together a third mentoring cohort to prepare submissions for 2022.



Book in celebration of International Women's Day 2021

The LTA are delighted to announce that a book in celebration of International Women's Day 2021: Gender equality and representation within and beyond the University of the Highlands and Islands has been published.

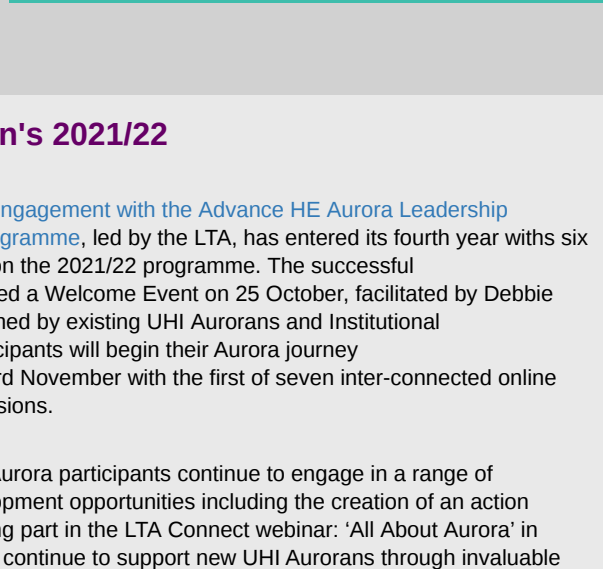
This book brings together a substantial collection of chapters based on or inspired by the themes, issues and challenges that were explored at the University of the Highlands and Islands celebration of International Women's Day 2021. Drawing upon contributions from colleagues across the university, and with a foreword from external keynote speaker Dr Natalie Jester, the book and the chapters therein are organised into three thematic sections. Section 1 explores 'Gender equality in education: the wider context and UHI initiatives to champion equality for women'. Section 2 shares 'Personal experiences and professional outlooks', while Section 3 is focused on 'Addressing gender balance and representation at UHI'.

The free to download eBook is available on the university's new [publishing platform](#) below, and the print on demand copy is available to buy from [Lulu](#) here.

[More Information](#)

Sharing the UHI Aurora Story

A chapter on the university's engagement in Aurora is included in the forthcoming e-book celebrating International Women's Day 2021. Entitled: Implementing the Aurora Leadership Development Programme in the University of the Highlands and Islands: Insights and implications. Written by Ann Tilbury, draws on evaluation and research study based on feedback from UHI Aurorans and explores participants' experiences of the programme within the university and in the wider context of leadership development and gender inequality with the education sector.



UHI Auroran's 2021/22

The university's engagement with the Advance HE Aurora Leadership Development Programme, led by the LTA, has entered its fourth year with six places awarded on the 2021/22 programme. The successful applicants attended a Welcome Event on 25 October, facilitated by Debbie Wartnaby and joined by existing UHI Aurorans and Institutional Champion. Participants will begin their Aurora journey on Wednesday 3rd November with the first of seven inter-connected online development sessions.

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. They continue to support new UHI Aurorans through invaluable mentoring and events.

Nicola Smith, Elizabeth McHugh and Rosemary McCormack presented a Pecha Kucha session at the recent [Learning and Teaching Symposium](#) on their experiences of completing Aurora and becoming UHI Aurorans. [UHI Aurora News](#) shares more on the activities of UHI Aurorans.

[More Information](#)

The University Mentoring Scheme Updates

Research Strand Update

Professor Finlo Cottier has taken on the Lead role for the Research Mentoring Strand of the University Mentoring Scheme.

Finlo has worked at SAMS since 2000, starting with his first postdoctoral position and is now a UHI professor in polar oceanography. He has been active in research, education and management through those 20+ years; leading major research projects, supervising PhD students and developed the BSc in Marine Science with Arctic Studies. Finlo has benefited through his career from the support and guidance from a number of valued mentors. In the last few years, he has become increasingly involved with the UHI Mentoring Scheme, registered as both a mentor and a mentee and participating in training days. He very much believes in the benefits of mentoring to individuals, teams, institutes and the university.

The Research Mentoring Strand is one of four strands on the University Mentoring Scheme:

- Research
- Scholarship Development
- Learning and Teaching Enhancement
- Professional Recognition

The scheme offers mentoring partnerships for colleagues across FE and HE through structured and supported mentoring activity, coordinated through the Learning and Teaching Academy (LTA).

[More Information](#)



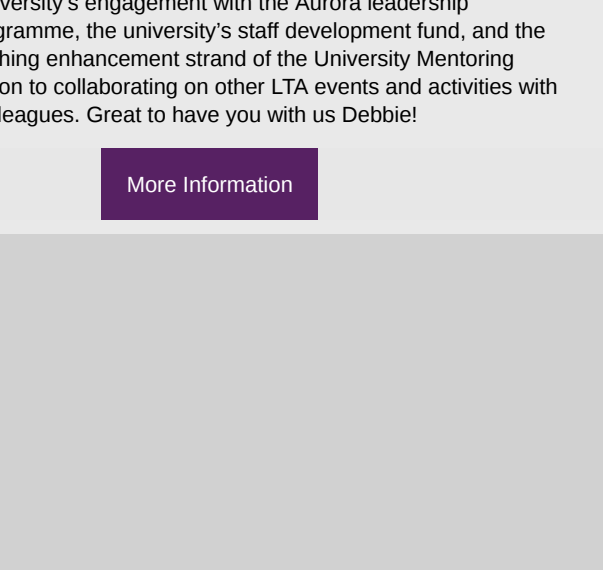
The Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strand Update

Six new mentees have recently joined the learning, teaching and enhancement strand as part of their successful application to participate in the Aurora Programme in 2021-22. We are currently in the process of matching mentees to mentors and arranging one-to-one introductory sessions. The strand of the mentoring scheme was also raised at the recent Educational Leadership Symposium, to encourage those interesting in engaging in leadership development to register for the strand.

[More Information](#)

Educational Leadership Symposium 2021

Following the success of the inaugural educational leadership symposium in 2020, the focus of the LTA's second educational leadership symposium 2021 was on educational leadership in times of change. Facilitated by Ann Tilbury and Scott Connor, the symposium welcomed two external speakers. Catriona Bell, formerly of Advance HE and very recently of Queen Margaret University facilitated a thought-provoking morning session on leading without authority and Valerie Jackman from College Development Network (CDN) explored and shared insights on leading in times of change. Look out for the forthcoming LTA blog post on the symposium.



[More Information](#)

Welcoming Debbie Wartnaby to the LTA

The LTA are delighted to welcome Debbie Wartnaby to the team in the role of Organisational Learning and Development Coordinator. Debbie is well-known across the university through her role as Faculty Officer for Arts, Humanities and Business, and the Humanities, Education and Gaelic Subject Network. Debbie has joined the LTA on part-time secondment until the end of January 2021, due to Ann Tilbury joining the Organisational Development Team on a part-time temporary basis. Debbie will be coordinating and facilitating the university's engagement with the Aurora leadership development programme, the university's staff development fund, and the learning and teaching enhancement strand of the University Mentoring Scheme, in addition to collaborating on other LTA events and activities with her new team colleagues. Great to have you with us Debbie!

[More Information](#)

Upcoming LTA Events

The Learning and Teaching Academy Team have hosted 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 events for the rest of the semester:

- [LTA Connect: The UHI Careers Centre – helping our students and graduates be 'FutureFit'](#) 04 November 2021
- [Scholarship Development: Reflective Writing for Personal and Professional Development](#) 11 November 2021
- [Assessment & feedback symposium 2021](#) 17 November 2021
- [LTA Connect: Low Fidelity Simulation on Sensory Impairments in Older Adults: Undergraduate Nursing Students' Self-Reported Perceptions on Learning](#) 25 November 2021
- [Scholarship Development: The secrets of communicating your research to a non-specialist audience](#) 02 December 2021
- [The UHI Mentoring Scheme: identifying goals and aims and facilitating reflective conversations through and beyond the University Mentoring Scheme](#) 08 December 2021.

Visit the LTA Events page for more information below.

[More Information](#)

