



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 4 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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LTA Connect Webinars

LTA Connect monthly lunchtime webinars aim to introduce colleagues to current and emerging developments in educational research and pedagogic practice as well as share the good practice that is taking place in learning and teaching across the university.

All webinars run from 1200 – 1300 on Thursdays, unless otherwise stated,

and run using Blackboard Collaborate Ultra so colleagues can join from anywhere with internet connection.

For people who cannot make webinars, recordings are available after the event. Please see the [pages for our past events](#) to look at the slides, recordings, and also other useful resources that are uploaded to keep the conversation going after the event.

[Webinar available to book](#)

These Women Can! Advancing women at the University of the Highlands and Islands



Being held on the 8th March, This one-day event will bring colleagues from across the university together to discuss and debate the current challenges facing women in Higher and Further Education.

Our keynote speaker will be Dr Sandra Cairncross, Assistant Principal for Widening Participation and Community at Edinburgh Napier University. Sandra will share her experience of setting up Edinburgh Napier Women's Network, why Women's Networks are needed in Higher and Further Education and encourage participants to consider what they can do individually and collectively to address key issues related to women in Higher and Further Education.

Although fully booked we hope that coming out the event a Women's Network may be formed. If this is something that you would like to be involved in please contact lta@uhi.ac.uk



Online learning resources

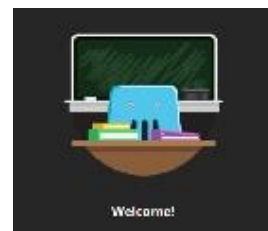
QAA Scotland have now made available a suite of resources designed to support and guide students in learning online, as part of the recently concluded Enhancement Theme on 'Supporting Student Transitions'.

The resources were developed as part of a funded collaborative project involving QMU, Edinburgh University, Glasgow University, and ourselves.

The resources offer short videos, guidelines for students, and reflective activities.

[More information](#)

Module Leaders 'survival essentials' workshop - 5 and 6 June



The workshop will provide new and aspiring Module Leaders with a set of 'survival essentials' to guide them in their role. The workshop will introduce relevant teams and members of staff; provide signposting to sources of information and guidance and provide an opportunity for participants to share their experiences; discuss challenges and build local support networks.

To support Module Leaders beyond the workshop, the information and guidance documents referred to during the event will be collated and developed into a resource after the event. Feedback from attendees will inform both the content and access points to maximise the effectiveness of the resource in providing on-going support for Module Leaders.

[More information and to book](#)



LTA Scholarships Awards for 2017/18

Dr Helen Coker, Inverness College UHI, has been awarded an LTA Scholarship to undertake the project titled 'Exploring the potential of digital connectivity for professional learners in rural areas: Comparing the experiences of professionals based in education, health and business'.

Helen's research will be completed over the coming six months, and the LTA looks forward to helping Helen share the outcomes from the work. We expect to announce further scholarship awards in the next newsletter.

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

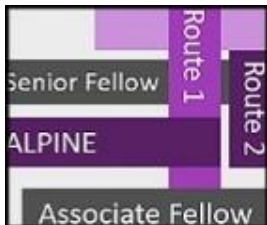


This one day online symposium explored best practice in using synchronous technologies for learning and teaching (including Videoconferencing and Blackboard Collaborate Ultra) to engage our

students and meet their diverse needs within the distributed context of the university.

Recordings and resources from the event are available to view. A blog summarising the event can be found [here](#).

More information



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 November 2017 and outcomes were communicated the following week.

The November 2017 Recognition Panel saw five colleagues awarded fellowship of the HEA through the university's framework ALPINE.

The following people were awarded Fellow of the HEA

Nicki Diggins, Inverness College UHI
Sarah Dunnett, North Highland College UHI
Eleanor Rutherford, Inverness College UHI
Jed McKernie, Inverness College UHI

The following people were awarded Senior Fellow of the HEA

Anne-Marie Nuttall, Inverness College UHI

[More information](#)

Presenting your work: a half-day course in presentation skills: 3 May

In this interactive and informative course, participants will explore the knowledge and skills needed to present their individual research and teaching projects creatively, authentically and with impact. The focus will be on presentation design and how creativity can unleash our potential to communicate and connect with any audience.

Presenter Iain Davidson is a training consultant who specialises in communication skills training. Iain was a postgraduate student at UHI in



Inverness, Sheffield Hallam university and the universities of Northumbria and York. He is a qualified teacher, Research Council Vitae tutor, training consultant with NHS Scotland health partnerships and is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

[More information](#)



Visit from Linnaeus University, Sweden

On the 10th of October Scott Connor and John MacMillan from the Educational Development Unit gave a presentation to a delegation from Linnaeus University, Sweden. Founded in 2010 following an amalgamation of Växjö University and Kalmar University, Linnaeus faces common challenges to UHI in relation to learning and teaching. The delegation were touring Scottish universities to share experience and build relationships in the tertiary education sector. Scott and John discussed how the university operates over a large geographic area, with a focus on how staff and students collaborate in this environment.

For more information contact [EDU](#) or visit the [EDU website](#).

Mental health conditions toolkit

In November the EDU completed work on a set of electronic resources designed to increase staff knowledge about mental health conditions and offer ways of helping support their students, including those who study online. The writers, Dr Rachel Erskine, Dr Eilidh Macphail and Kate Mawby, worked on the premise that the materials would improve the student experience by creating a more knowledgeable staff base at the university. It is also hoped it will aid recruitment and retention. The project was externally funded, by the Student Services Organisation, and in line with the funding brief the resources were made publicly available via the UHI web site. The Mental Health Conditions toolkit is also available as a tile on the MyDay dashboard.



[More information](#)



The university mentoring scheme - watch this space!

In February the university mentoring scheme will be re-launched to include two new strands.

Coordinated by the Learning and Teaching Academy, the scheme will offer UHI colleagues the opportunity to mentor or be mentored on three strands; Research, Learning and Teaching Enhancement and ALPINE.

The mentoring scheme will be open to all university colleagues within research, learning and teaching and for colleagues engaged with the ALPINE (Accredited Learning, Professional development and Innovation in Education) framework.

More information will follow through email and the [LTA webpages](#) once the scheme is launched.

Beyond the university

Teaching and Learning Conversations (TLC) offer monthly webinars for people teaching and or/supporting HEA. Recordings of past webinars are also available.

[More information](#)

OER textbooks: Are you looking for Open textbooks to recommend to students for your courses? <http://ukopentextbooks.org/resources/> is a useful website that lists many available resources including the UK site <https://www.openbookpublishers.com/> with over100 available Open textbooks.

Document comparison: This is an excellent website which staff can use for comparing two documents:

<https://draftable.com/compare>

LTA Connect Webinars

- **20 February:** Professor Keith Smyth, University of the Highlands and Islands. The Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy.
- **29 March:** Professor Neil Simco, University of Highlands and Islands. The Research Excellence Framework (REF) Exercise - REF 2021.

- **22 February:** Dr Anthony Luke, Inverness College UHI. Crossword puzzles - an enjoyable way to aid learning and problem solving.
- **22 March:** Marion MacDonald, Learning and Information Services, University of Highlands and Islands. Mahara - a most versatile tool.

- **26 April:** Dr Vasilis Louca, the University of Aberdeen, Gamification in Teaching.

[More information and to register](#)

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

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