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 9 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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Staff Development Fund

The staff development fund is now open for applications to support colleagues to undertake accredited professional development programmes of study. For the start of the academic year a guide to the fund and new forms have been produced. More information is available on the **Staff Development Fund** web pages. Two briefing sessions have been arranged for colleagues responsible for staff development funding applications. These videoconference sessions will take place on Friday 11 October (13:00 to 14:00) and Tuesday 29 October (9:30 to 10:30). To attend either session please email **LTA@uhi.ac.uk.**

More Information

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. There were two successful bids this year:

- ·Does simulation of sensory and cognitive impairment in nurse education influence student nurses' clinical practice? Project lead: Ms Abigail Tracey (Department of Nursing and Midwifery, UHI)
- ·A-B-Tree: Seedlings for Learning. Project lead: Dr Mandy Haggith (Inverness College UHI)

Scholarship recipients will undertake their research in this academic year working towards publishing articles in academic journals and presenting at relevant conferences.

More Information

Using Brightspace

Brightspace is now the University's official Learning Environment (LE). As you teach and continue to build your modules/units in Brightspace, remember that you can always go back to the **Professional Development Module** in Brightspace for some quick help. In addition, members of the EDU keep updating the **EDU Supportal** with even more handy Brightspace guides.

ALPINE: celebrating HEA recognition

June 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 June:

- David Paterson, Perth College UHI
- Diana Valero, Perth College UHI
- Elizabeth Cottier-Cook, Scottish Association of Marine Science UHI
- John Buchan, Executive Office UHI
- Nikki Yoxall, Moray College UHI
- Rhiannon Tinsley, Executive Office UHI
- Terri Smith, Executive Office UHI

More Information

100th person recognised with HEA Fellowship through ALPINE!

June also saw the 100th person recognised with HEA Fellowship through ALPINE. Rhiannon Tinsley, Academic Registrar, Executive Office was recognised as Senior Fellow HEA..

Of her recognition Rhiannon said "I found the ALPINE application really rewarding, in providing a framework to take a step back, reflect on my professional practice – and think about positive achievements and progress. It's often the challenges and pressures which dominate….

I was well-supported throughout by the LTA team, particularly the initial writing workshop to kickstart my thinking, as well as the step by step written guidance. It was excellent having a mentor who understood my area of work and who I could test my ideas out on.

I felt a bit of a pioneer being one of the first people from a professional services background to go through ALPINE seeking Senior Fellowship. It did demand some reflection on the dimensions of the UKPSF, thinking about how my role impacts on staff as well as directly on students in UHI. So I hope that it will be valuable for other professional services colleagues around the university partnership who might be wondering whether ALPINE is for them – it is!!"

Andy Blackall awarded CMALT

Huge congrats to Andy Blackall of the Educational Development Unit. Awarded CMALT (Certified Member of the Association for Learning Technology) at #altc 2019! Well done Andy!!! The CMALT Accreditation Framework provides pathways to peer-assessed accreditation for Learning Technology professionals in the UK and internationally.

Building educational leadership capacity

The LTA is taking forward a range of initiatives to build educational leadership within the university. Two current examples of this are the Aurora Leadership Development programme and the Jisc Digital Leadership Programme. The support provided by the LTA reflects findings of current research literature, where the limited impact of some leadership programmes has been attributed to a lack of supporting opportunities for participants to apply their learning on completion of the programme.

More Information

Advance HE Aurora Leadership Development Programme 2019

Applications for the five places on the Advance HE Aurora Leadership programme closed on 19 September. Successful applicants will undertake six inter-connected development days in Edinburgh from November 2019 to March 2020. More information on the programme is available from **Advance HE Aurora Leadership Development Programme webpages.**

Last year's Aurora participants are being supported by the LTA to embed their learning from the programme through a range of opportunities including becoming an Aurora role model at one of the development days in Edinburgh this year; taking part in the selection panel for this year's Aurora Programme participants and becoming a mentor. A development day is being held on 30 October 2019 to plan personal leadership development and practice, strengthen networking opportunities and raise the profile of Aurora across the institution.

More Information

Jisc Digital leadership development programme

The LTA will be supporting a small cohort of colleagues undertaking the **Jisc Digital Leadership Development Programme** in October 2019. Participants on the programme will have the opportunity to come together before the programme to explore their expectations and will be supported following the programme to implement their learning.

More Information

The EDU launches FORGE

Following a successful pilot programme, the Educational Development Unit is pleased to introduce FORGE, a software application developed by the EDU, which will enable university staff to quickly and easily create engaging, web-based content (such as learning resources and student handbooks) for publication on the web or within Brightspace.

Jacky MacMillan, Head of EDU, says "Forge offers staff a significant opportunity to enhance the student experience by creating engaging, responsive and interactive learning materials. I am delighted that after a lot of hard work the EDU is launching Forge across the partnership… I hope staff enjoy using it!"
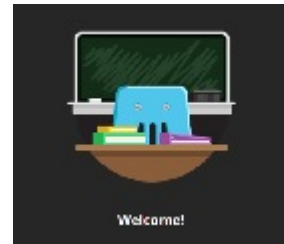
Your university credentials will provide access to the **Forge editor.**

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 learning and teaching and educational scholarship 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

TurningPoint: student polling made simple! Monday 28 October 2019

This afternoon session will begin with a presentation from a university colleague from the Department of Nursing and Midwifery, who will demonstrate the efficacy of turning technologies software and clicker response units as a data collection tool. Alan Duddy, Senior Business Development Executive, Turning Technologies will then provide a two hour training session focusing on the TurningPoint student polling solution.

More Information

Open all ours: Open Education, what it means for you and for the university: Wednesday 20 November 2019

This one day event will look at open educational practice and will introduce the forthcoming Open Education Framework. An overview of the preliminary findings from the latest Open Education Survey will also be discussed.

The keynote, titled: Into the Open - exploring the benefits of open education, will be delivered by Lorna M. Campbell, manager of the University of Edinburgh's OER Service will will provide an introduction to the broad domain of open education, including OER, open practice, MOOCs, open knowledge and Wikimedia. Highlighting examples of openness in action from the University of Edinburgh, she will explore how open education and OER can help to expand access to education, widening participation and social inclusion, promoting knowledge transfer and creating a culture of inter-institutional collaboration and sharing.

More Information

Co-operative University event: monday 11 November 2019

On Monday the 11th November, the Learning and Teaching Academy will be co-hosting an event exploring current developments to establish a Co-Operative University within the UK. Colleagues from the Co-Operative University Project will lead an exploration of the concept and ethos of the Co-Operative University, who the partners in the project are, progress to date, and ambitions going forward. There will also be input from UHI colleagues exploring the nature of tertiary education in distributed contexts, and hands-on activity exploring the civic responsibilities of universities.

'Exploring Federated Models and the Idea of the Civic University' will be held at An Lochran, Inverness Campus, and by videoconference for those who would like to participate online. A call for participation and registration will follow in the week beginning 14th October.

LTA event supports programme enhancement

Heather Fotheringham from the LTA ran a development day with colleagues from the Geography degree on 27 August 2019 to investigate the use of group work. Prompted by student feedback through the National Student Survey (NSS), teaching staff and a student rep reviewed the use of group work across the programme, and discussed different models for grading contribution to group projects. Changes to teaching and assessment informed by the day will be taken forward in the upcoming programme revalidation.

The LTA is happy to facilitate and/or provide space for other colleagues who would like to develop areas of their teaching delivery, curriculum or assessment practices. Please **email the LTA** to find out more.

The University Mentoring Scheme

The second annual University Mentoring Scheme residential took place in the last week of August with twenty colleagues coming together from across the University. Keith Smyth, Professor of Pedagogy and Head of Learning and Teaching Academy shares his experiences as a participant at the event in a recent blog posting: **Towards an embedded culture of mentoring**. The scheme has grown to just under 140 colleagues registered with 87 staff active as mentors.

More Information

Enhancement Themes conference: call for proposals

QAA Scotland's 4th international enhancement conference will take place on 3 and 4 June 2020 in Glasgow. The call for proposals is now open and invites submissions under five strands relating to the current Enhancement Theme of the use of evidence for enhancement:

- Understanding student demographics, retention, progression and success
- Using big data to enhance learning and teaching and the student experience
- Creating and valuing evidence beyond numbers
- Empowering staff and students to use evidence
- Supporting employability and the development of graduate skills

Interested colleagues should submit proposals by 25 October 2019. You can also find out more about the university's work around Enhancement Themes on the **LTA Enhancement Theme webpage.**

More Information

LTA take to the stage at ALT conference

Keith Smyth and Scott Connor from the LTA attended the Association for Learning Technology's annual conference at the University of Edinburgh's McEwan Hall and Appleton Tower in September, an event that also saw Keith being appointed as the new Vice-Chair for ALT. The title of this year's conference was 'Data, Dialogue, Doing'. ALT and the community who support it have a strong commitment to creativity, community, social good, openness and porosity and strive for democratic access to knowledge and learning. This was a particularly busy event for Keith as he was also acting as co-chair of the conference along with colleagues Melissa Highton, University of Edinburgh and Louise Jones, independent consultant working in global transformation. Aside from chairing some sessions throughout the event both Keith and Scott a session on **'Critically (re)framing open education within a geographically and digitally distributed university'** and Keith co-presented another session with Sheila MacNeil on **'Reimagining the Digital University: A new contextual framework for university development'.**