

Highlights

- During the academic year 2010-2011, the LTTTC has been successful in obtaining the following awards: In March, we won an Irish Institute of Training & Development (IITD) Award for our MA programme, negotiated with the Law Society Education Centre. In September, we took joint second place for the 2011 ALT Learning Technologist of the Year Award. The eLearning summer school has recently been shortlisted for a UCISA award. Winner to be announced in December.
- Over the year, we have supported /been successful in obtaining funding for a diversity of projects: 9 Teaching Fellowships, 6 LTA seed funded projects, 19 ‘Clickers’ projects, 14 local and 3 national NDLR projects, as well as our ongoing involvement with SIF projects
- The first DIT LEAD module was piloted from March onwards. A collaborative enterprise between the LTTTC, Campus Life, DITSU and Clubs and Societies, this module aims to recognise student leadership in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities.
- We enrolled 130 participants onto our 3 postgraduate programmes over the year, including a first cohort of staff from the Law Society. 74 LTTTC students graduated in November 2010.
- The first set of DIT Teaching Fellowship reports were published as was the DIT led LIN project publication ‘*Designing together: Effective strategies for creating a collaborative curriculum to support academic professional development*’ edited by Noel Fitzpatrick and Jen Harvey.

Workshops, seminars and lecturer support

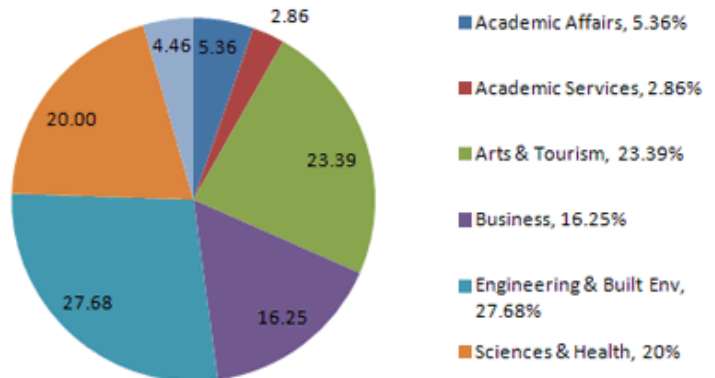
Between September 2010 and June 2011, the LTTTC facilitated 97 workshops and seminars. These were attended by 649 DIT staff. The annual Showcase of Learning and Teaching held in January attracted 117 participants.

Over the year we introduced 8 new workshops. These included the Assessment swapshop series, where staff had the opportunity to exchange their assessment ideas in practice. Topics included peer assessment, assessing large groups, assessing first year students and delivering effective formative assessment.

In 2011, the LTTTC supported institutional Presidents Award for Excellence in Teaching was replaced by 4 College Teaching awards. These awards now involve two ‘nomination paths’ – students nominating staff and staff nominating peers. Students nominate staff through completion of an online survey form. A total of 336 student nominations for staff were received in 2011.

Learning, Teaching and Technology Centre

% attendance at academic development workshops, by college
 1st September 2010 to 31st August 2011



Staff from the LTTTC were actively involved in supporting staff to develop their applications towards an award. College Teaching Awards are made at the relevant conferring ceremony.

eLearning support & development

Between 1 Sept 2010 and 1 Aug 2011, 17,034 students and staff have logged into webcourses.dit.ie. This is the highest number of users recorded in a single academic year at DIT. Webcourses is currently used on 90% of all full-time programmes across the institute. Most access (60%) to webcourses is from outside the DIT network. During the year, over 4 terabytes of information have moved through the system, a daily average of 12.66 gigabytes. Over 13,616,616 pages have been viewed (i.e. an average of 40,768 per day!) The LTTC answered 3,700 support calls (average of 14 per day, 56 per day in September 2010!)

Accessing content via folders and files was the most common usage of webcourses, but users also spent over 600 hours using features such as the Campus Pack Wiki, Plagiarism detection via SafeAssign (almost 1000 hours), Assessments, Assignments, the mail tool and discussion boards. SafeAssign was used on over 120 individual modules (more than doubling this tool usage over the year); Campus Pack Wiki by 35; Wimba Live Classroom by 30; EduText SMS messaging by 67 (again doubling tool usage). In addition, 'Clickers' projects were funded and supported by the LTTC in all Colleges with a Clickers Blog and online case studies used to capture reflections and recommendations.

Showcase of Learning and Teaching 2011

The theme for the 2011 Showcase was assessment. The keynote presentation was given by Professor Sally Brown, Leeds Metropolitan University and workshops, posters and presentations were provided throughout the day by the Teaching Fellows, LTA project recipients and staff. Blathnaid Sheridan, School of Mathematical Sciences, recipient of the 2010 President's award for teaching excellence also gave a plenary presentation. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive.

Programmes

Since the revalidation of the Postgraduate Diploma in third level learning and teaching, 19 students have undertaken the bridging module to upgrade their Postgraduate Certificate in third level learning and teaching to a Diploma. In 2010, the LTTC was successful in tendering for Skillnets funding to support the design and development of a short 5ECTS PG Certificate course and the (now award winning) negotiated MA in Higher Education: professional education and skills with the first group of legal education staff joining the programme in September 2010. During this year, a total of 130 students were registered on our LTTC programmes as follows:

Postgraduate Diploma in Third Level Learning and Teaching	51 registered students (including intake to new PGDiploma in February)
M.A. in Higher Education	36 registered students
M.Sc. in Applied eLearning	33 registered students
CPD in Teaching in Higher Education	10 registered students (from the Law Society)

This year we are planning to offer 7 independent postgraduate short courses. These include Writing and disseminating research, Learning theories and HE policy. Credits obtained by completing these modules can be used towards one of our postgraduate awards.

The Second Annual Graduate Student Conference held on 14 June in the DIT Aungier Street campus was attended by 42 delegates and presenters. The purpose of the graduate conference is to disseminate educational research from across the two programmes – the MA in Higher Education and the MSc Applied eLearning (involving both present and past graduates). Professor Jon Nixon, University of Sheffield, the outgoing external examiner of the DIT MA in Higher Education gave a keynote presentation '*Seeing what is questionable: how to begin research*'

Funded Projects

Learning Innovation Network (SIF 1)

Although the project funding ceased in Dec 2009, work continues supported by a LIN Coordinator group organized under the auspices of the Flexible Learning IoTI project.

National Digital Learning Resources (NDLR)

DIT remains actively involved in supporting the NDLR project. Funded through the HEA, this project supports the collaboration and sharing of learning and teaching resources between Irish Universities and Institutes of Technology. In 2010, there were 14 NDLR supported DIT Learning Innovation Projects. All project recipients presented posters at the NDLR fest in TCD on 23 March. DIT staff, including members of the LTTC, were also successful in obtaining funding for 3 national collaborative projects. These involve resources to support Mobile Learning and the 1st year experience.

Dublin Region Higher Education Alliance (SIF2)

DRHEA funding is currently being used to support mature-student-related activities, the development of the Module Catalogue, (Coursewise) and the annual Teaching Fellowship College projects. The nine 2010-11 Fellowships were supported by LTTC staff, through a series of College based workshops and a one day writers' workshop held in Mount street campus. The research reports are currently being collated as a DIT publication to be made available at the 2011-12 Fellowship launch on 27 September. Dr Patricia Kieran (Teaching Fellow from UCD) will be giving a keynote presentation: '*Translating teaching and learning across disciplines in a modular system*'. This is the first of a series of events under the theme of '*Broadening the curriculum*'. DIT LTTC workshops were opened out to all DRHEA partner staff during Academic session 2010/11. As part of the eLearning Network of Excellence, led by the DIT, 50 academic staff from the 8 HEIs attended the ninth eLearning summer school also held in DIT Aungier St between 20-24 June. Feedback was extremely positive and a winter eLearning School is being planned for later this year.

Other projects

As well as being involved in all the sub-committees of academic Council, LTTC staff have been involved in the further development of the DIT widening participation strategy, the review of the learning, teaching and assessment strategy, the part-time programmes committee, the Grangegorman Learning Spaces project and with the First year experience working group to support the Student Transition: Expectations, Engagement, Retention, Success! (STEERS) initiative. The LTTC, Campus Life, Clubs and Societies and DITSU have collaborated to design and develop the Lead, Engage, Achieve and Develop (LEAD) module. The first group of successful students will receive their certificates on 23 Sept. LTTC members were the instigators of and continue to play a prominent role in the design and development of Coursewise, the DIT Module catalogue.

Conferences

During 2011-2, LTTC staff were involved in supporting the coordination of the NAIRTL/ Learning Innovation Network conference in October 2010, the International Conference in engaging pedagogies in January 2011, the Irish Learning Technology Association's annual EdTech conference in June 2011, 1st Facilitate international conference as well as many LIN, Educational Developers in Ireland Network (EDIN) and Facilitate workshops. Staff have also presented/attended ICOT [international conference on thinking] Belfast, EATW conference, Limerick, EDULEARN11, Blog Talk 2010 Conference, iTunes U conference, Diverse Conference (DCU), ALT-C (Leeds), British Education & Technical Training Exhibition, SEDA Conference, (Edinburgh), 13th conference of the Confederation of Student Services in Ireland, European First Year Experience UK, 5th Qualitative Research Summer School (DCU) Sloan 4th International Symposium on Emerging Technologies for Online Learning, Cyber psychology Summer School, Virtual Immersive and Cyber Technologies Summer School 2011, IAML Dublin, Ireland 2011, EDEN(IADT) ICT in Education Conference (Tipperary Institute)

Staffing

At the beginning of Sept 2011, the LTTC holds the following positions:

Learning Development Officer (4 positions)	Marian Fitzmaurice (on sick leave) Martina Crehan Vincent Farrell Roisin Donnelly/Muireann O'Keeffe (jobshare)
eLearning Development Officer (2 positions)	Frances Boylan Pauline Rooney (Maternity leave)/Fionnghuala Kelly/Claudia Igrude (jobshare)
eLearning Support Officer (2 positions)	Dolores McManus (four days per week) Ken Lacey (IoTI SIF-funded)
Admin Support (2 positions)	Linda Boyd Natasha Roche
Audio Visual Technical Officer	Helen Lamb
IT Technician (acting)	Orla O'Sullivan (IS Services, two days per week)
Other positions (2 positions)	Daphne Mulvey (library) Miriam Allen (NDLR)
Head of eLearning Support & Development	Kevin O'Rourke
Head of Learning Teaching & Technology Centre	Jen Harvey



Back row from left: Kevin O'Rourke; Helen Lamb; Dolores McManus; Roisin Donnelly; Fionnghuala Kelly; Daphne Mulvey; Vincent Farrell; Jen Harvey; Ken Lacey. **Front row from left:** Linda Boyd; Marian Fitzmaurice; Natasha Roche; Martina Crehan; Muireann O'Keeffe; Frances Boylan; Miriam Allen. **Missing from photo:** Pauline Rooney; Claudia Igrude.