DIT eLearning Summer School 2009

The seventh DIT eLearning summer school has taken "Get Flexible: Moving to an Online Environment" as its theme. In response to participant feedback from previous years, this year's school has been planned to be very hands-on, and participants should be able to complete the week with the basic elements of an online module in place.

Convened by DIT's Learning, Teaching and Technology Centre, with the support of Staff Training and Development, the week-long event at the end of the June provides an opportunity for people working in education to:

- become familiar with the tools and strategies necessary to create a successful online course
- exchange ideas with colleagues
- discuss issues relevant to eLearning, technology and broader issues of education.

Summer School 2008 – photo © Jimmy Robinson

PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 22 JUNE
Theme: What makes a good online module?

10.00am: Opening remarks

10.10am: *Overview of the week, plus introductory workshop,* facilitated by members of staff from DIT's Learning, Teaching & Technology Centre, with Professor Noírín Hayes (DIT), Dr Kay MacKeogh (Oscail/DCU) and a live link from the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, Durban University of Technology, South Africa. This session will outline the structure of the week to come, and offer examples of best practice in the field. Interaction is encouraged, with time for discussion and coffee break.

1.00pm: *Lunch*

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2.00pm-4.00pm: *Blending and rendering to online*
This hands-on workshop, led by DIT's Dr Roisin Donnelly, is designed to help you to identify the principles of good eLearning as the basis for devising your own online and blended modules. The session will conclude with a look at the possibilities offered by virtual worlds such as Second Life, led by John O'Connor, DIT School of Art Design and Printing.

TUESDAY, 23 JUNE
Theme: What's with online assessment?

10.00am: *Devising a strategy*
Assessment drives learning and the levels of motivation required of students in the online environment makes this even more evident. This session, led by DIT's Martina Crehan and Orla Daly, is designed to help you to look beyond traditional assessment practices in order to foster a more positive learning experience among your students. *(Includes coffee break.)*

1.00pm: *Lunch*

2.00pm–4.00pm: *Getting the right tools*
Building on the morning's session, this workshop will look at the effective use of some common online assessment tools, as well as some newer tools now coming into the mainstream.

WEDNESDAY, 24 JUNE
Theme: Communications: "You talkin' to me?"

10.00am: *What is this web 2.0 thing?*
This morning's workshop takes its starting point in the Web 2.0 communications revolution and the possibiities it offers for online learning. DIT's Claudia Igbrude, Fionnghuala Kelly and Muireann O'Keeffe will lead this exploration of wikis, blogs, mobile phones, discussion forums, social networks, Facebook, Twitter and other forms of communication in the context of education, with plenty of time for discussion, and a coffee break mid-way through.

1.00pm: *Lunch*

2.00pm–4.00pm: *Doing it your way*
This afternoon session will build on the morning's workshops and provide an opportunity to discuss which communications tools will be most useful to your own particular educational needs, and how best to integrate them into your module.

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THURSDAY, 25 JUNE
Theme: Content: contented?

10.00am: *"It's a library Jim but not as we know it!"*
The aim of this workshop, facilitated by Brian Gillespie and his colleagues from DIT's library services, is to demonstrate the wealth of online resources available via databases / ebooks / ejournals, and how to find them; how to search the internet effectively and how to evaluate such resources. The focus will be on critical information literacy which can inform a dynamic method of course development. (Coffee break included.)

1.00pm: *Lunch*

2.00pm-4.00pm: *Play and Do*
This hands-on session, facilitated by Frances Boylan and Avril Behan (DIT's School of Spatial Planning), will offer practical advice on using tools such as wikis, social bookmarking and webquests to get students to construct knowledge and thereby facilitate active learning. The session will conclude with an open discussion in preparation for Friday's workshops about the techniques and resources encountered.

6.00pm: Summer School Dinner
Fallon & Byrne, 11-17 Exchequer Street, Dublin 2.

Summer School 2006 – photo © Kevin McFeely

FRIDAY, 26 JUNE
Theme: Moving on…

10.00am: *Training and planning*
This morning's session will give you an opportunity to focus on developing your online module as part of a group or in a one-to-one session with an eLearning development expert. In addition, you will have an opportunity to avail of some introductory training in one of the following technologies which you may have decided to integrate into your online module: *Podcasting*; *ePortfolios*; *mLearning*; *Virtual Learning Environments.* (Additional sessions may be devised in response to demand which emerges in the course of the week.) Pre-booking for training sessions, and for one-to-one consultations will be required.

1.00pm: *Lunch*

2.00pm-4.00pm: This final session is designed as an opportunity to share ideas and look at some of the plans which have been formulated by participants, discuss next steps, and evaluate the week overall.

Updates to Programme
Updates to the summer school programme will be available on the Learning. Teaching and Technology Centre website at: **http://lttc.dit.ie**
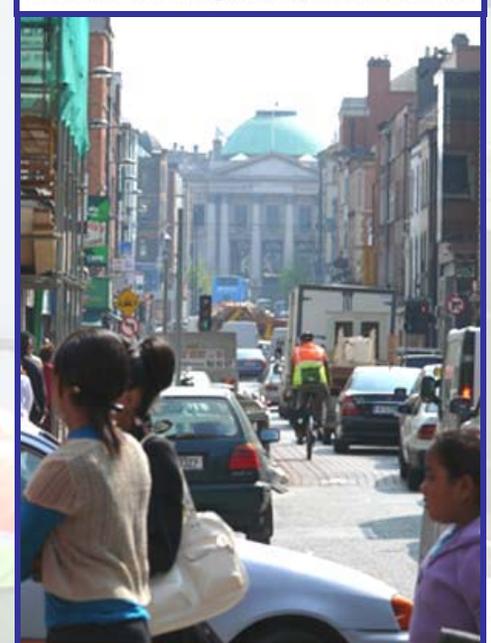
Location
All Summer School sessions take place in the Dublin Institute of Technology, Aungier Street, Dublin 2.

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