Centre for Teaching and Learning - Spring 2023 Newsletter

Newsletter Introduction

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Centre for Teaching and Learning team, I'm delighted to share with you our first CTL newsletter.

In this issue, we highlight our 2022-23 Teaching and Learning Fellowship award recipients and congratulate our recent CTL programme graduates. We share details about our workshops and new resources for staff including an Academic Integrity and AI topic in the Assessment and Feedback Hub, and a range of accessibility resources. We also share news about our planned upgrade to Moodle 4.1 this summer.

We hope you will find this newsletter, and future issues, informative and interesting. We would also welcome your feedback on news items that would be of most interest and help to you.

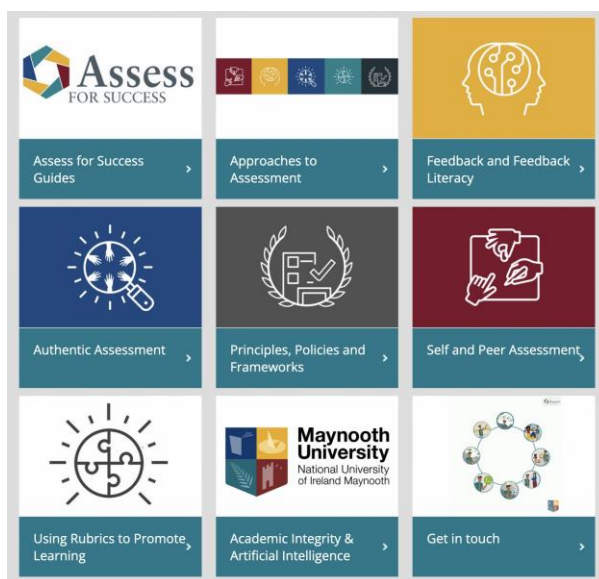With best wishes for the semester,

Lisa O'Regan, Head of Centre for Teaching and Learning

'Academic Integrity and Artificial Intelligence' topic added to CTL's Assessment and Feedback Hub
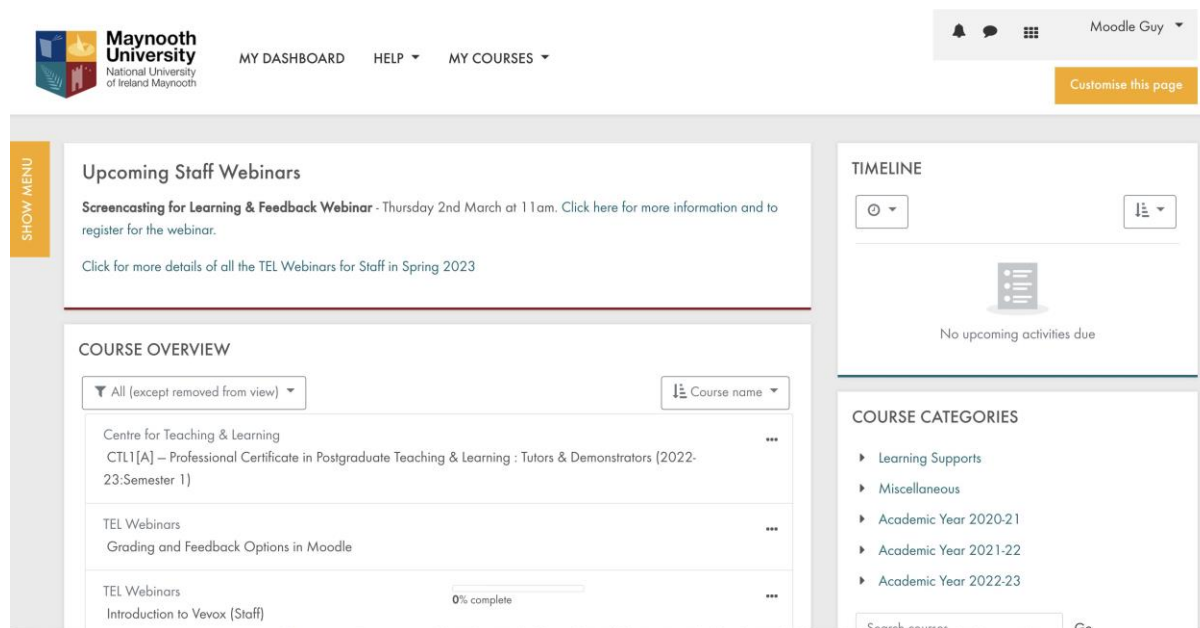
CTL has recently added a new topic to our Assessment and Feedback hub, namely, 'Academic Integrity and Artificial Intelligence'. This new topic includes staff and student facing resources on academic integrity and a range of resources on artificial intelligence, particularly around ChatGPT and similar technologies. The development of this new topic space is in keeping with CTL's commitment to grow and develop the hub beyond the National Forum/HEA Strategic Alignment of Teaching and Learning Enhancement (SATLE) initiative funding which supported its establishment.

The Assessment and Feedback hub, which was launched by Professors Sally Brown and Kay Sambell in November 2022, has been designed to provide a central, online, 'go-to' space where Maynooth University staff can find resources to support and enhance assessment and feedback practice. The hub contains a bank of locally developed and curated resources on assessment and feedback practices that promote student success.

We would encourage colleagues to **explore and use the hub**, and we welcome feedback on it to **Dr Alison Farrell**.

Moodle Upgrade to Version 4.1

The Maynooth University Moodle VLE will be upgraded this summer from version 3.9 to 4.1 with a go live date set for the **5th of July 2023**. This upgrade will be substantial as it will include several core changes and improvements to how Moodle works. The upgrade is required as version 3.9 of Moodle will stop receiving security updates in December 2023.

Most improvements will be linked to user interface and user experience developments. Some of the big features include a module index that will allow users to jump to specific points on a module page, an edit toggle to replace the edit mode button and tabbed navigation within modules. We are working on updating the overall look and feel of Moodle as well. We have consulted with staff and student focus groups to gather feedback on how we can improve this aspect of Moodle, and we are looking forward to revealing the new design to the MU community closer to the time of the upgrade.

Further information on new features in Moodle

SATLE 2022-2023 Funded Initiatives

As part of the Strategic Alignment of Teaching and Learning Enhancement (SATLE) 2022-23 funding call, CTL has received funding for four initiatives focused on Teaching and Learning Leadership at Maynooth University. The initiatives are:

1. Developing Teaching and Learning (T&L) Leadership through a MU Education Framework

This will support a strategically aligned, whole-of-institution approach to curriculum design and development. The project will involve the collaborative development of a **Maynooth University Education Framework, a Programme & Module Leaders Toolkit** and the **piloting of the Toolkit** with representative Programme Teams from each faculty.

2. MU Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Resource Hub

3. Embedding Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in T&L Practice

4. Supporting Staff in Open Educational Resource (OER) Development

Further information about SATLE 2022-23 will shortly be posted on the CTL website.

Conferring for CTL Postgraduate Diploma

The Centre for Teaching and Learning is proud to congratulate our latest group of participants to graduate from the Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education Teaching, Learning and Assessment (PDHETL), and the Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Teaching, Learning and Assessment.

These are flexible 60-credit and 30-credit programmes (respectively), aimed at providing those who teach in Maynooth University with the opportunity to engage with theory, concepts and approaches to learning, teaching and assessment in higher education and to consider how these might apply in their own practice.

Dr Adeline Cooney, Programme Lead, said 'We are proud to congratulate this year's graduates; **Dr Ciara Bradley** (Department of Applied Social Studies), **Dr Ozgur Bayram** (Department of Biology), **Dr Martina Schroeder** (Department of Biology), **Dr Nicola Mountford** (School of Business) (Pictured), **Dr Peter Mooney** (Department of Computer Science) and **Dr Edgar Galvan** (Department of Computer

Science) on their achievement in completing the Diploma. Likewise, we congratulate **Dr Amina Adanan** (School of Law and Criminology), **Dr Gloria Kirwan** (Department of Applied Social Studies), **Professor Fiona Walsh** (Department of Biology), **Dr Saeed Golian** (Department of Geography) and **Dr Rachel O'Neill** (Department of Mathematics and Statistics) who were awarded the Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Teaching, Learning and Assessment'.

Recruitment for a September 2023 intake will begin in April, and updated information on the two programmes and how to apply will be **available here on 20 March**. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the programme, contact **ctlprogrammes@mu.ie**.

Teaching and Learning Fellowships

This Spring CTL is hosting a series of Sharing Practice events in collaboration with the 2022-23 Teaching and Learning Fellows. The sessions will include brief presentations from T&L Fellows followed by time for discussion with colleagues from across the university. All staff are welcome to join these hybrid sessions. Registration is through Teams and all the relevant links can be accessed here.

Previously, colleagues from across all three faculties met on Friday 28th October 2022 to celebrate being awarded Teaching and Learning Fellowships. The celebration recognised Fellows from the Team Teaching Fellowship Awards of 2020 and from the current Teaching and Learning Fellowship cohort (2022–23).

Eighteen Fellowship projects were presented on the day, from a total of 78 colleagues, across over 20 departments, all 3 faculties and 1 professional services team. Information about the Teaching and Learning Fellowships and a list of the 2022–23 Teaching and Learning Fellows is available **here**.

Teaching and Learning Sessions for Spring 2023

CTL are pleased to announce a range of T&L and Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) sessions in which we will be collaborating with colleagues this spring.

Full information and registration links are available here for the **T&L Sessions** and the **TEL Sessions**.

- 'T&L Fellowships - sharing practice (1)' **| hybrid event |** Fri 17 February, 11.00-12.00

- 'Using writing to enhance learning in the classroom' **| in-person event |** Wed 22 February 11.30-13.00. Presenters: Ryan Dippre (University of Maine) and Karen Till (MU Geography Department).

- 'Exploring ChatGPT: Opportunities and Challenges' **| in-person event with option to attend the first hour online |** Tuesday 28 February, 14.00-16.30

- 'Spring Clean Your Module Learning Outcomes' **| in-person event |** Wed 1 March 14.00-16.00. Presenters: Denis Casey, Adeline Cooney and Adrienne Kendlin.

- 'Screencasting for Learning & Feedback' **| online event |** Thurs 2 March 11:00 - 12:00. Presenter: Mairead McQuaid. | **Register here**.

- 'Getting started with Open Education Resources - OERs' **| online event |** Fri 10 March 13.00-14.00. Presenters: Ronan Bree, Catherine Cronin and Alison Farrell. | **Register here**.

- 'T&L Fellowships - sharing practice (2)' **| hybrid event |** Thur 23 March, 11.00-12.00. | **Register here**.

- 'T&L Fellowships - sharing practice (3)' **| hybrid event |** Wed 19 April, 11.00-12.00. | **Register here**.

If you have any queries about any of the sessions, please email **teachingandlearning@mu.ie**.

Accessibility Supports for Staff and Students

The Centre for Teaching and Learning, in collaboration with the Access Office, have developed a range of accessibility-focused supports for staff and students including:

- A **MU Accessible Learning Guide**,

- A **MU Moodle Accessibility Baseline**, which provides guidance on how to set up an accessible Moodle page

- Accessibility guides for students to support them in creating accessible Word documents on a Mac or PC

- A curated list of externally developed accessibility resources including courses, guides and videos developed by AHEAD, the World Wide Web Consortium and Microsoft

You can find these resources and more on in the "Guidelines for Improving Accessibility" section on the **Staff Help page in Moodle**.

Contact Us

1st Floor

School of Education

Maynooth University

Maynooth

Co. Kildare

Ireland

Tel: +353-1-708-6770

E-mail: **teachingandlearning@mu.ie**

Web Address: **https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/centre-teaching-and-learning**