



In this issue

CPD for UCC staff.....	2
UCC Online.....	2
Teaching Hero Awards 2016.....	3
Digital Capacity Development.....	3
Presentation to Michael D Higgins.....	4
Collaboration is in the air.....	4
Collaboration with Mzunj, Malawi.....	4
Engaged Research in Ireland.....	5
National T&L Initiatives.....	5
Community Engagement Awards.....	5
Quercus News.....	6
Lifelong Learning.....	7
Instructional Design Website.....	7
Centre for CPD.....	8

WELCOME

Welcome to OVPTL News, the quarterly newsletter of the Office of the Vice-President for Teaching & Learning.

The focus of this edition is on external engagement. Building partnerships with external organisations, institutions and individuals locally, nationally and internationally is part of UCC's core mission. Our teaching is enhanced by engagement with wider society, and at the OVPTL we strive to collaborate widely and to engage with external partnerships. Through these activities we gain a deeper understanding of the needs of society to inform our policies and strategic planning in developing our curriculum to support the best student learning at UCC.

It is a challenging and interesting time in higher education. The OECD last year reported that 65% of young people today will work in jobs that do not exist today. Just think about that. We will have to be open to seeing traditional jobs being replaced by new jobs or maybe even disappearing totally and being automated. The unthinkable is set to happen more frequently – just look at Brexit and the election of US President if you need evidence – and we need to plan for such discontinuities. And we must do this in an environment of digital

revolution driven by exponential increases in computing power. Today is about seeing the possibilities, exploring the unknown, engaging with others within and outside the university and supporting each other in this new learning world.

It is also about having excellent role models and celebrating success. On the national stage, two of our UCC colleagues were recently recognised as winners of the student nominated National Teaching Hero Awards 2016. These awards were established by the National Forum in partnership with the Union of Students in Ireland with the aim of identifying inspirational lecturers who might not have previously received public recognition.

As we reimagine our approach to providing Continuing Professional Development (CPD) across all of our disciplines, we will launch the new Centre for CPD at UCC in 2017. This is an exciting example of how the strategic plan is moving forward!

Professor John O'Halloran
Vice-President for Teaching & Learning
@johbees

www.ucc.ie/teachlearn

STUDENT HUB RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Staff and students across UCC are invited to participate in a research programme on **Transition to the Hub: Evaluating teaching and learning environments and the influence and impact of the new student Hub on students and staff at UCC**

The deadline for receipt of applications is **Friday 24th February 2017**
For further information on funding and application forms please contact
vp-teachingandlearning@ucc.ie or visit
www.ucc.ie/teachlearn/designoflearningspaces



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHING STAFF AT UCC

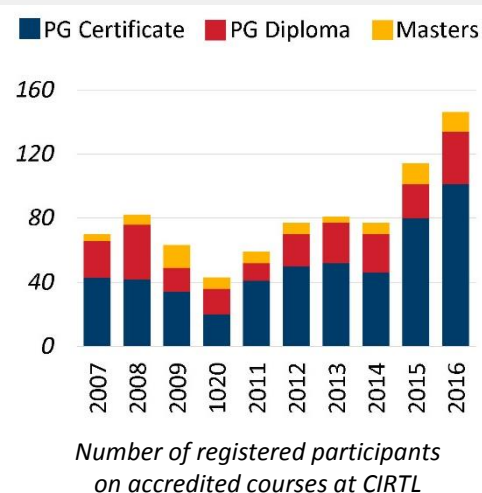
UCC continues to invest in professional development courses in Higher Education Teaching and Learning for its staff, PhD students and researchers, offering opportunities for them to review and improve their teaching skills and employ innovative pedagogies. The Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning (CIRTL) at UCC is responsible for ensuring that all staff involved in teaching activities at UCC are provided with opportunities to gain the relevant qualifications to enable them to fulfil their role.

To this end CIRTL offers seminars, events and accredited programmes for teaching staff and students at UCC and for external organisations. Information on these activities can be found at www.ucc.ie/en/cirtl. Accredited programmes, up to and including NFQ level 9, which run each year, for UCC and external staff are as follows:

- Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching & Learning in Higher Education (available online)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching & Learning in Higher Education (available online)
- Masters in Teaching & Learning in Higher Education
- Two 5 ECTS modules in Teaching & Learning for postgraduate students

The Postgraduate Certificate and the Postgraduate Diploma are now offered online to allow staff the flexibility to take these courses. The number of participants in accredited courses has increased steadily since they were launched in 2007, and this has been further enhanced in recent years as we have moved to online provision. The Postgraduate Certificate course now has 101 registered participants, the Postgraduate Diploma has 33 registered participants and 12 staff members are currently registered for a Masters in Teaching & Learning in Higher Education.

For further information on these courses please visit: <http://www.ucc.ie/en/cirtl/>.

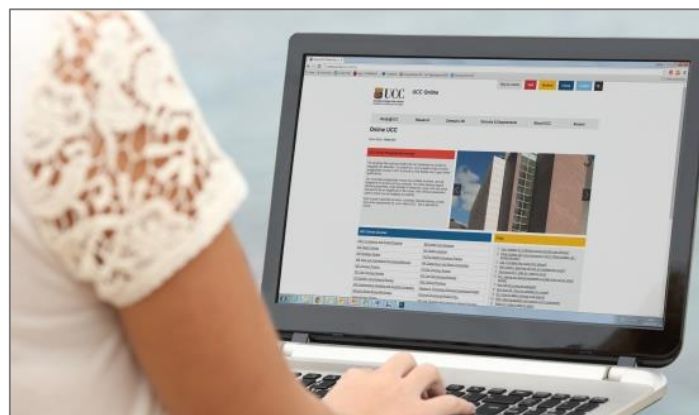


UCC ONLINE

The Office of the Vice President for Teaching and Learning recognises the important role that online learning now plays in higher education, and its importance in addressing UCC's strategic vision and mission. With the evolution of technology, educational opportunities are continually growing and changing. Online learning, where instruction and content are delivered via the internet, has seen considerable growth in universities around the world over the past 10 years, and UCC has been part of this growing trend.

Since its launch in 2015, with just 6 courses, UCC Online has grown significantly each year and now provides for a large cohort of students. UCC currently offers 32 online or blended learning courses at undergraduate and postgraduate level in UCC. Of these courses, 21 have been designed and developed with the Instructional Design Team in the Office of Vice President for Teaching and Learning across all four of the Colleges and in ACE at UCC. Student numbers have grown consistently from 126 in 2014/15 to 637 for the 2016/17 academic year. A full list of the courses on offer is available at <http://www.ucc.ie/en/online/>.

The Instructional Design Team is currently working on the development of a number of new courses for launch in September 2017 and later. It is also investigating the development of several potential Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). The team provides consulting, training and access to specialised hardware for online course development and content



creation and the instructional designers provide assistance at each step of the development process. In addition to content development, the office works closely with the Graduate Studies Office, the university's Digital Marketing teams in UCC's Media and Communications and International Education Office to devise online marketing strategies at UCC to increase recruitment to online courses. Eleven online marketing campaigns ran during 2016, resulting in millions of impressions and tens of thousands of additional visitors to course landing pages on ucc.ie. The findings of this research was presented at seminar on December 14th, attended by over 30 academic programme coordinators.

TEACHING HERO AWARDS 2016

Dr Robert Butler, Lecturer in Economics and Steven Robinson, Tutor in Criminology at UCC have both been recognised for being excellent teachers. Both received National Teaching Heroes 2016 Awards at a ceremony at The Printworks, Dublin Castle in October. Congratulations to Robert and Steven who were nominated by their students for these awards

This, the second round of these awards which are jointly run by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and the Union of Students in Ireland (USI). Designed to engage and empower students in defining, identifying and celebrating impactful teaching, the 2016 campaign focused on innovative, creating and inspiring teaching.

More than 800 lecturers/teachers from across Ireland's higher education sector were nominated for these awards, from which the top 37 teaching heroes received awards. Students described their most impactful teachers as being



Prof John O'Halloran, Vice-President for Teaching & Learning, Dr Robert Butler, Lecturer, Steven Robinson, PhD student, Eolann Sheehan, Students' Union President, and Ian Hutchinson, Students' Union Education Officer, University College Cork at the Teaching Heroes 2016 Awards Ceremony in Dublin Castle

outstanding, knowledgeable communicators and again emphasised the human touch as being an essential characteristic.

Analysis of the testimonials gathered during the awards process identified 8 themes

that underpin teaching excellence.

Click hear students talk about the characteristics of excellent teachers:

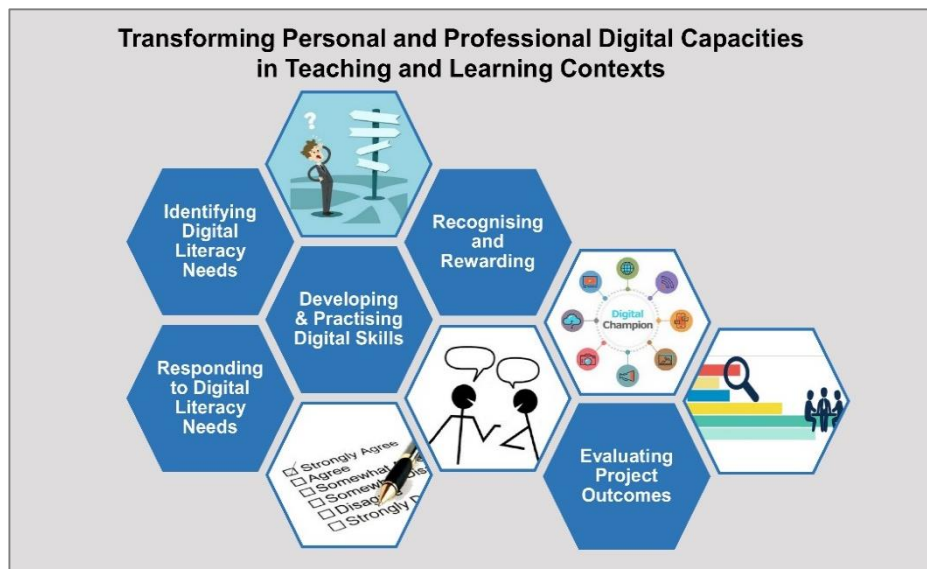
<http://www.teachingandlearning.ie/wh-at-does-it-take-to-be-a-teaching-hero/>

NATIONAL FORUM FUNDING FOR DIGITAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The OVPTL continues to lead the way in working with the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning around the development of collaborative projects with other higher education institutes. Since its launch in 2012 by the Minister for Education and Skills, UCC has worked on nine National Forum projects.

The third phase of the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund was launched in 2016. This call had sustained focus on collaboration for national impact while also enabling capacity building at a local level. The fund builds on and develops the completed and ongoing work from the first two phases conducted at HEIs across Ireland.

UCC was again successful in this phase, securing funding for a new 2-year project entitled 'Transforming Personal and Professional Digital Capacities in Teaching and Learning Contexts: A Collaboration between Social Policy Educators, Students, and Learning Technologists'. This project will be led by Dr. Eileen Hogan, Department of Applied Social Studies and supported by the Instructional Design



Team, and is a collaborative project with partners at the Institute of Technology Tralee, University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, Waterford Institute of Technology, Institute of Technology Carlow and Cork Institute of Technology. One of the key outcomes from this project will be the development of a diagnostic tool for identification of the learning ('spiky') profiles of social studies

professionals with regard to digital literacy competencies.

Further information on this project can be found at:

<http://www.teachingandlearning.ie/transforming-personal-professional-digital-capacities-teaching-learning-contexts-collaboration-social-policy-educators-students-learning-technologists>

PRESENTATION OF BOOK TO PRESIDENT MICHAEL D HIGGINS

A very successful collaboration involving twelve UCC academics and three international guest experts has led to the publication of a book by Routledge entitled *'Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Transitions to Sustainability'*.

This book takes a comprehensive look at ways in which a university can be re-envisioned through a trans-disciplinary informed frame, and shows how the pressing and multifaceted issue of societal (un)sustainability can be addressed and understood in a way that transcends disciplinary work. It also provides a practical exemplar of how more meaningful deliberation, and options for action in relation to the sustainability-related contemporary crises can emerge than could otherwise

be achieved. President Michael D Higgins invited the editors of the book, Prof Edmond Byrne (Engineering), Dr Gerard Mullally (Sociology) and Dr Colin Sage (Geography) to Áras an Uachtaráin on December 11th last to present him with a copy on behalf of all the book's authors.



Transdisciplinary Perspectives book being presented to President Michael D. Higgins

The invitation represented an acknowledgement that this piece of work addressed some of the key themes of his Presidency, including around his call for university scholarship to provide 'evidence of engaged critical interdisciplinary work' within 'an integrated approach to learning' in addressing issues 'about what constitutes survival and consumption, and what is meant by human flourishing, solidarity or humanity itself'.

President Higgins had a wide ranging conversation with the editors during the visit, and expressed the view that the collaborative scholarship that delivered this book is to be welcomed, in particular as it focuses on the challenges around sustainability.

COLLABORATION IS IN THE AIR

Professor John O'Halloran was recently invited to University Massachusetts, Lowell Campus, where he was guest speaker at a two-day sustainability workshop. The inaugural two-day programme, a collaborative effort between the Office of Sustainability at UMass and the Center for Irish Partnerships, was designed to help attendees to enhance their current sustainability initiatives, increase awareness of funding opportunities and stir dialogue around innovative new ideas. The Center for Irish Partnership fosters collaborations and partnerships with educational institutions in Ireland and Northern Ireland across an interdisciplinary spectrum including.

As part of the visit Professor John O'Halloran met with Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney to build further links and to explore ways for the two organisations to co-develop an academic sustainability programme. A return visit by the Provost of UMass Lowell, Professor Michael Vayda, and a number of his Deans will take place during April 2017.



MZUZU UNIVERSITY'S AND UCC - REAL PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION!

By Rosarii Griffin

Mr Baluwa (Head of Nursing and Midwifery at Mzuzu University in Malawi) and Mr Chirambo (Lecturer at Mzuzu University), visited UCC in December 2016 for the purpose of reciprocal capacity building.

They attended a Nursing and Midwifery Seminar, organised by Dr Tom Andrews and co-hosted by the Centre for Global Development. They also made presentations at the School of Nursing and Midwifery Annual Research Conference organised by Dr Aine Horgan and Dr Therese Ahern.

Thanks to all of our UCC colleagues for participating in this exciting collaboration which fulfils the terms and conditions of

our joint UCC-MZUNI Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2012. We that it will continue to grow, in accordance with UCC's Strategic Plan, and the plans of the Centre for Global Development.



Prof. John O'Halloran meets our guests

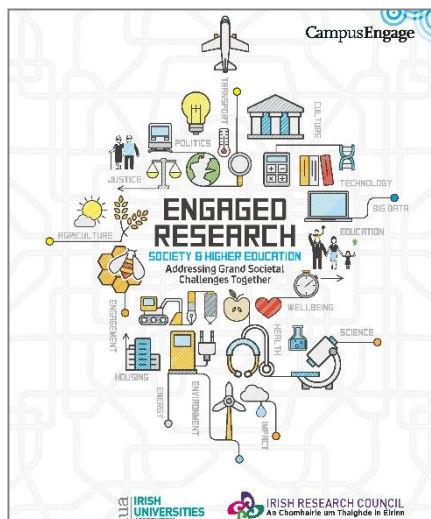
I would like to extend my thanks to Prof Ivan Perry and Colette Cunningham for committing UCC-SRF funds to support this collaboration, which was also funded through ESTHER Partnership Strategic

Funding. A special thanks to Dr Patricia Leahy-Warren who accompanied me to Malawi.

The visiting delegation reported that the books which the UCC community donated in response to an appeal for help following a fire which destroyed their library, had arrived in Mzuzu. Their students are making great use of the books and wish to extend a very warm thanks to everybody at UCC, including the security staff, operatives, students, staff and the local Cork Community. This project demonstrates that the tentacles of partnership and capacity building can stretch well beyond the remit of the original proposal, which in this case was centred around research capacity building.

NATIONAL REPORT ON ENGAGED RESEARCH IN IRELAND

The culmination of a series of consultative workshops, including one hosted by UCC organised through the Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning and the Research office, a National report on Engaged Research in Ireland was launched in January 2017. This project was funded by the Irish Research Council and developed by Campus Engage. The Campus Engage initiative is a collaboration between all Irish universities and Dublin Institute of Technology supporting a broad range of engagement practices between HEIs and society, and harnesses the research strengths of these HEIs to address societal challenges across a range of disciplines.



This report provides a framework for the delivery of engaged research in higher education institutions in Ireland. It sets out the challenges that prevent effective collaboration in engaged research in Ireland. It also sets out recommendations for higher education institution leaders, research funding organisations, and policy-making bodies to promote and support excellence in this important area.

Link to report:

http://www.campusengage.ie/sites/default/files/inline-images/ER%20Report%202016%20Web_FINAL.pdf

NATIONAL INITIATIVES IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

The Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning (CIRTL) responds to National initiatives on behalf of UCC by engaging in, coordinating or supporting consultation exercises and funding applications, as well as by actively participating in national working groups and forums. In November, CIRTL participated in a national consultation on the National Forum Enhancement theme on "Assessment to/for/of Learning", and in a national consultation coordinated by the National Forum for members of national Teaching and Learning networks on "Authentic Assessment within and across the disciplines". In December Two CIRTL staff participated in a National Forum workshop on Programmatic Assessment and will soon represent UCC on a national committee focussed on identifying best practices and required supports in this area.

In January 2017 The National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning launched a new report profiling assessment practices across Irish higher education. It aims to inform the current enhancement theme of the National Forum by profiling documented assessment practices across a sample of undergraduate programmes. It also aims to explore whether, and how, assessment practices differ between disciplines and to share insights regarding students' experiences of assessment.



INAUGURAL AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

December marked the celebration of the 50th student-community project at the Community-Academic Research Links (CARL) initiative at UCC. This brought together community representatives with UCC staff and students. Its focus was to grow the network of community organisations that CARL and UCC partners with, and to highlight the impact of projects undertaken to date. These are the inaugural awards for Outstanding Community Engagement reflecting the increased focus at UCC in engaging with the broader community.

Three awards were presented to students for Outstanding Community Engagement Projects. The first to Monica Coll and Siobhan Sully for their project "Home Share Clare" exploring alternatives to institutional respite services for families. The community partner organisation used the project findings to leverage funding of €30,000

for the continuation of the service, which was also featured on RTE's Nationwide programme in 2012.

The second award was for a project completed by Hazel McDermott in partnership with the Eating Disorder Clinic in Cork. Hazel's surveyed GPs and professionals to gain greater insight into their understanding of eating disorders. A follow up project with the School of Dentistry has resulted from Hazel's work, and the recommendations arising from the project are being followed up on by the organisation.

The third project was completed by 6 MSc Corporate Finance students in partnership with Carrigaline Lion's Youth Centre. The project supervisor Dr Steve O'Callaghan collected the award on behalf of the students (Emma Keane, Conor Scannell, Peter Bresnan, Conor O'Donovan, Ruiqian Yan & Sean Lordan).



Trish Shiel, Eating Disorder Clinic, Hazel McDermott, UCC graduate, Siobhan O'Sullivan, project Supervisor

Dr Kenneth Burns, School of Applied Social studies, was awarded "CARL Supervisor of the Year 2016". Kenneth is a founding member of CARL and has supervised the greatest number of CARL projects to date. He is a tireless advocate for CARL and constantly challenges the CARL team, students and community partners to innovate and go further with their ideas.

QUERCUS TALENTED STUDENTS' PROGRAMME NEWS

www.ucc.ie/en/quercus



Prof. John O'Halloran, Vice President for Teaching & Learning with the 2016/17 Quercus Scholars at the Awards Gala.



Dr. Frank Burke, Dentistry with Quercus Scholars Sarah Jameel and Kaumal Mirza

AWARDS GALA 2016

Vice President for Teaching and Learning, Prof. John O'Halloran presented Quercus Talented Students' Scholarships to 20 students in the Aula Max on December 1st, 2016. *"The Quercus Talented Students' Gala dinner allows us celebrate the extraordinary talent of our Quercus scholars along with their families, former schools and the ongoing Quercus Scholars whose achievements we have celebrated in previous years"* said Prof. O'Halloran who is also Director of UCC's Quercus Talented Students' Programme. *"At UCC we create an environment where academic excellence can be combined with opportunities for personal development. Excellence underpins everything we do at UCC, and we recognise outstanding students when they join, as well as those who develop their talents while studying here."*



Quercus Scholars Jack Casey, Aidan Marnane & Ronan Byrne



More than 120 people attended the 2016 Quercus Gala dinner

Over 120 people attended the Gala dinner event which included Quercus Scholars and their families, Principals and teachers from their former schools, external supporters of the programme and UCC colleagues.

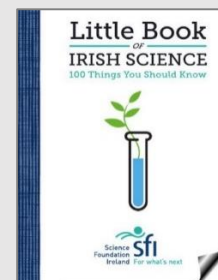
Quercus Talented Student Scholarships are awarded in five categories (academic, sport, innovation/entrepreneurship, active citizenship and creative and performing arts) and are each worth up to €10,000 per year.



Quercus Scholars Ciara Judge and Miah Phelan Sweeney

LITTLE BOOK OF IRISH SCIENCE

Congratulations to Quercus Scholars Ciara Judge and Emer Hickey who are featured in the Little Book of Irish Science. Ciara and Emer are Quercus Innovation/Entrepreneurship Scholars and are both studying in the College of Science, Engineering and Food Science. Ciara & Emer were part of the three person team that won the BT Young Scientist competition in 2013. They then went on to win first prize at the European Union Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS) and the Google Science Fair. They also won international acclaim by winning awards at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, the world's largest science fair, and at the International and Environment and Sustainability Project Olympiad (INESPO).



QUERCUS LECTURE SERIES 2017

The Quercus Lecture Series will commence in February 2017 and the schedule is as follows:

- Monday 6th February, Quercus Academic Lecture:
Dr. Maria McNamara (UCC School of BEES), 6 – 7 pm in Creative Zone, Boole Library
- Tuesday 21st February, Quercus Innovation/Entrepreneurship Lecture
David Merriman (Head of Enterprise Development, BOI), 7 – 8 pm in Creative Zone, Boole Library
- Tuesday 28th February, Quercus Creative & Performing Arts Lecture
Eibhlín Gleeson (CEO, Cork Opera House), 7 – 8 pm in Creative Zone, Boole Library
- Monday 6th March, Quercus Sports' Lecture
Stewart Hosford (CEO Alex Thompson Sailing & Hugo Boss Sailing). 6 – 7 pm in Creative Zone, Boole Library
- Tuesday 14th March, Quercus Active Citizenship Lecture
Sarah Jameel and Alan Hayes (UCC Quercus Scholars), 7 – 8 pm in G18 Kane Building, UCC

LIFELONG LEARNING

On January 31st 2017 the Office of the Vice-President for Teaching and Learning hosted an informal information session on our Learning City and Learning Neighbourhoods initiatives. In 2015, Cork City received a UNESCO 'Learning City' Award, one of only three cities in Europe, and 12 worldwide, to receive this acknowledgement. The award recognises Cork's commitment to lifelong learning provision and promotion and the positive influence that education has on social inclusion. More on the background to the award may be read at <https://www.ucc.ie/en/about/uccnews/fullstory-605798-en.html>. As a further recognition of Cork City's commitment to



lifelong learning, UNESCO has chosen Cork as the location to host its International Conference on Learning Cities 2017 – the first time that this prestigious conference, typically attended by more than 700 delegates, has been held in Europe. UCC is one of four partners (along with CIT, Cork City Council and Cork ETB) in the Cork Learning City association. An initiative that grew from that forum was the 2015 pilot 'Learning Neighbourhoods' programme. More on this pilot, and future directions, may be read at <https://www.ucc.ie/en/about/ucc/>.

INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN WEBSITE CELEBRATES ITS FIRST BIRTHDAY

At the end of 2016 UCC's [Instructional Design website](#) celebrated its first birthday. Since its launch in December 2015, the website has had over 12,000 visitors and over 100,000 page views.

The Instructional Design team at UCC support the innovative use of technology for teaching and to growing the number of online and blended courses at UCC. The team works closely with IT services at UCC to provide support for staff wishing to explore the potential for technology to enhance teaching and learning.

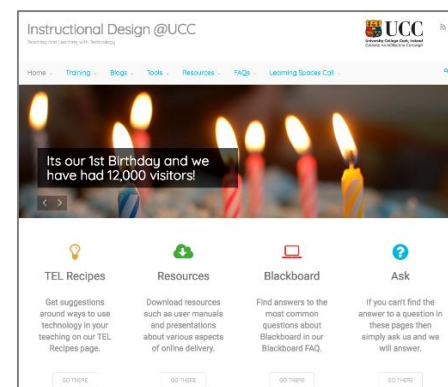
The website hosts resources for staff and students focused on the use of technology for teaching. The average number of visitors per month has been 1,500 and the highest monthly number of visitors was seen in November

2016 following the launch of the Next Generation Learning Spaces funding call. Peaks in visitor numbers have also been seen following training events offered by the Instructional Design team.

Over the year, the content and functionality of the website has grown substantially. Items we have added include:

- Real time chat functionality through Pubble
- Training videos on various topics on our [YouTube Channel](#)
- Questions to the [Blackboard FAQ](#)
- Over 25 posts to the [Best Practice Blog](#)
- A section on [Learning Spaces](#)
- Numerous downloadable [resources](#), several of which have been downloaded hundreds of times
- A monthly newsletter

The website provides the most up-to-date information on training available.



The Instructional Design team are delighted with the success that the website has had, and encourage you to email instructionaldesign@ucc.ie if you have further suggestions.

CONTINUED PROGRESSION FOR THE CENTRE FOR CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Recent months have seen some significant milestones for the Centre for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) including:

- Approval of CPD Process, Policy and Governance documents at Academic Development Standards Committee (November) and Academic Board (December)
- Pilot offering run through process for CPD Offering with School of Applied Social Studies (mid-Dec)
- CPD Certification for University-Wide Modules UW0005 and UW0011

Since November, the Centre for CPD has been reaching out to Colleges, and Schools and Departments who currently offer CPD to communicate the new processes and to highlight the benefits that the Centre will bring for the University. Good progress has been made to date, with the College of Medicine and Health and the School of Law to receive presentations in the coming weeks.

CPD within UCC is split into two different types of activity:

ECTS Module – CPD modules that are stand alone and credit-bearing from a University/Academic perspective. Results for ECTS modules are recorded on each student's permanent academic record.

Non-ECTS Offering – CPD including individual lectures, lecture series, seminars, workshops and conferences. Non-ECTS offerings are not recorded on an academic record (this will be held separately by the Centre for CPD).

Is your School/ Unit running CPD over the coming weeks or months?

Following the approval of the Centre for CPD Process and Policy document at Academic Board in December, processes and procedures are now in place for the approval for ECTS CPD Modules and non-ECTS CPD Offerings.

This means that the Centre for CPD can now provide you with support to develop, administer and certify CPD in your School/ Unit. Please email us (cpd@ucc.ie) to let us know if you have a CPD idea (even if it is in the very early stages), or are close to being in a position to advertise your CPD and we will arrange an initial meeting to take you through the process and our supports.

The Centre for CPD has experienced an extremely positive response to its announcement in the University newsletter last November and as a result, there currently 12 CPD offerings in the pipeline, at different stages of concept development/review/approval. In the months to come, the Centre for CPD will reach some further milestones, including launch of a 'Shopfront' website, recruitment of a Senior Executive Assistant, back-end system launch and more.



Katie Sandham

OVPTL WELCOMES NEW STAFF

The OVPTL welcomes new staff member, Katie Sandham, who will manage the new Centre for CPD at UCC. Katie has a Master of Business in Electronic Business from UCC and joins us with a background in business analysis and change management through roles with Bórd Gáis Energy, Apple Operations Europe, Euromedic and most recently the UCC Academy. Katie will be responsible for the strategic development of the Centre for Continuing Professional Development, and will be central to delivering a new vision and approach for the provision of CPD at UCC

The Quercus Talented Students' Programme welcomes new staff member, Elaine O'Mahony. Elaine joins Quercus from UCC's Department of Human Resources where she had worked since April 2016. She previously acted in an administrative capacity at both Deerpark Christian Brothers School and at St. John's College in Cork. Elaine will provide administrative support to the Quercus Talented Students Programme, and will be the administrator for the Quercus website. She will also contribute to outreach for the Quercus Programme. Elaine will act as a contact point for Quercus Scholars and for schools and students interested in the Quercus Talented Students Programme.



Elaine O'Mahony