

Forum Insights

PROJECT TITLE:

Technology Enhanced Assessment Methods (TEAM) in Science & Health Practical Settings.

Overview of the project:

In Science and Health practical sessions, the development of both technical and soft skills is essential in terms of both student learning and employability. The Institute of Technology Sector (IoT) in particular places a major value on producing graduates who are 'workplace ready' with an emphasis on developing practical skills. It is widely recognised that assessment can influence student learning, effort and engagement.

However, there is considerable scope for improvement in practical assessment practices at undergraduate level where concerns such as over-assessment, authenticity and graduate skill development are widely acknowledged (e.g. Bree et al., 2014; Hunt et al., 2012). The Technology Enhanced Assessment Methods (TEAM) project lead by DkIT and partnering with

IT Sligo, AIT and IT Carlow is exploring the potential offered by digital technologies to address these concerns. It aims to develop a framework for applying the principles of good assessment and feedback to practical assessment and facilitate dialogue among stakeholders about what it is we want students to learn in practical classes and how our assessment can facilitate this. A peer network of discipline specific academics and students in the Science and Health field has been established. The project is identifying approaches to assessment using digital technologies which may enhance any challenges and shall pilot and evaluate these across the four partner colleges. This is informed by a comprehensive literature review and a stakeholder needs analysis including students, staff and employers.

Partners (Project Steering Committee)

INSTITUTE	NAME	ROLE
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Key outcomes of the project

- Project Steering committee established. Monthly meetings held and Project Work Plan monitored and currently on target as per original funding application.
- Project Advisory Panel established (Students from four partner colleges, approximately 25 in total); External Academic Dr. Michael Seery, University of Edinburgh; Industry members identified).
- Student and Staff consultation meetings have taken place in all partner colleges.
- Academic Staff from all four Schools engaged in Project (approximately 25- 30 in total) which shall form the academic peer network.
- Project Networking Workshop taking place June 13th 2016 in AIT to be attended by students and staff.
- Student Feedback Surveys designed and piloted with student advisory panel members.
- Ethical approval for student feedback surveys granted in DkIT/ITS. Ongoing in AIT and ITC.
- Student Feedback Survey completed in DkIT and ITS (Approximately 55% student response rate). Data analysis ongoing.
- EdTech 2016: Abstract accepted and presented as GASTA presentation.
- Detailed Literature review of best practice nearing completion.
- Quotations currently being sought for website/logo design so as to increase national and international visibility of the project.
- Priority themes that cut across science and health disciplines in the partner colleges have been identified to inform the next phase of the Project.

Outline how the project benefits the higher education sector nationally

- Identifying and sharing best practice in technology supported assessment in Science & Health disciplines.
- Scalable processes being developed - focus on capacity building and approaches supports sustainability.
- Cross disciplinary approaches in Science and Health disciplines evolving through the identification of priority themes.
- Listening to the 'student voice' in relation to assessment design.
- Providing an opportunity and framework for the key stakeholders (staff, students and employers) to inform and drive enhancement.

Outline how the project benefits students

- Practical assessment - enhanced learning - emphasis on assessment for learning
- Technology supported assessment- harness the potential of technology
- Development of assessment literacy
- Enhanced learning environment and experience
- Improved preparation for practical sessions
- Opportunity to engage with students from partner colleges - networking opportunities.
- Development of assessment consistency across modules by lecturers, in partner colleges.
- Improve employability
- Opportunity for increased student engagement

Other national/international development work that complements this project

- Y1 Feedback www.y1feedback.ie includes synthesis of literature on feedback and affordances of technology. Mutually informing, this project is building on capacity developed in DkIT and AIT.
- What works and why - <https://whatworksandwhy.ie/> synergies and the sharing of good practice within and between disciplines. Establishment of sustainable communities of practice.
- Allaboard.org - develop technology in education (YouTube overview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVRB4dBbejc>); student and staff development, staff-student partnerships.
- T1step - share and learn a digital skill - <http://www.t1step.ie/>
- TELU: TELU - Open online resources for teaching with technology (www.telu.me)
- Irish Higher Education Horizon report 2015.
- National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning - Digital Roadmap.
- *The Changing Pedagogical Landscape: New Ways of Teaching and Learning and their Implications for Higher Education Policy* (available at <http://www.changingpedagogicallandscapes.eu/publications/>)
- NDLR resources are available eg:<http://cop.ndlr.ie/LINCS2010/itcarlow/DGGE/player.html>; <http://www.ndlr.ie/articulate/itcarlow/working-with-GMOs/player.html>; <http://cop.ndlr.ie/LINCS2010/itcarlow/Health-and-Safety-in-the-Lab-Introduction/index.html>

Who to contact for more information/next steps

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