

Forum Insights

THE IRISH MATHEMATICS LEARNING SUPPORT NETWORK (IMLSN)

Mission Statement

The aim of the IMLSN is to act as an informative community of practice for all those with an interest in the provision of mathematics and statistics support at third-level education in Ireland. The IMLSN strives to provide training and support to members through the sharing of ideas and best practice. It also aims to provide a mechanism for the provision of opportunities for collaborative research and development in the area of Mathematics Learning Support (MLS). The IMLSN espouses a scholarly approach to mathematics learning support that is expedited by an annual workshop and online forum to promote, discuss and evaluate best practice in Mathematics Learning Support nationally and internationally. The IMLSN seeks to foster links with other similar networks internationally e.g. the sigma network in the UK, and to enhance research collaborations between its members and international colleagues with research interests in the areas of mathematics learning support and mathematics education. The ultimate aim of the IMLSN is to ensure that students in Higher Education Institutions on the island of Ireland benefit from the best possible mathematical support and education that MLS can provide.

How can interested parties get involved with the IMLSN

People can get involved in the IMLSN community of practice in several ways and at different levels:

1. Engagement with the regularly updated IMLSN website <http://supportcentre.maths.nuim.ie/mathsnetwork/home> provides the most obvious portal into the activities of the IMLSN.
2. Anyone involved or interested in this area in Ireland can join the IMLSN mailing list by contacting the network on irishmathsupport@gmail.com. This mailing list is used to update network members on upcoming events in the area of MLS nationally and internationally. At present we have 125 active members.
3. People can participate in the annual IMLSN workshops by attending and /or presenting papers on their work in the area of MLS.
See <http://supportcentre.maths.nuim.ie/mathsnetwork/ucd2015> for further details of this year's workshop.
4. As well as the organising committee of the IMLSN, the IMLSN has developed a structure of 'Special Interest Groups'. These groups will seek to involve as many members as possible so as to deliver on particular projects that will be of benefit to the overall network as

quickly as possible, for more on these projects see <http://supportcentre.maths.nuim.ie/mathsnetwork/projects>

All members can seek nomination to the IMLSN organising committee prior to the AGM with the AGM being held online so as to encourage as wide as possible participation in this aspect of the network.

The purpose of the website and mailing list is to keep all members of mathematics learning support in Ireland abreast of developments in MLS nationally and internationally. This keeps members informed about conferences and seminars in mathematics education in Ireland and the UK. It also serves as a repository for links to online staff and student resources. There is also an IMLSN Newsletter that is issued electronically.

This year we will held our 9th annual workshop at UCD on Friday May 29th.

Each conference has a keynote speaker and invited experts from the mathematics education community in the UK and/or Ireland.

All members of the network and interested parties are invited to attend this workshop at no charge, see <http://supportcentre.maths.nuim.ie/mathsnetwork/ucd2015> where interested parties can get all the relevant information, including the registration link.

We'd like to acknowledge the National Forum for Teaching and Learning, the Irish Mathematical Society and UCD for sponsoring this event.

Please feel free to contact any member of the IMLSN committee should you be interested in any facet of the work we do.

The current committee of the IMLSN as elected in January 2015 are:

Chair - Olivia Fitzmaurice, University of Limerick, Olivia.Fitzmaurice@ul.ie

Vice-Chair - Anthony Cronin, University College Dublin, anthony.cronin@ucd.ie

Secretary - Cormac Breen, Dublin Institute of Technology, cormac.breen@dit.ie

Treasurer - Ciarán Mac an Bhaird, Maynooth University, ciaranmacanbhaird@gmail.com

PRO - Eabhnat Ní Fhloinn, Dublin City University, eabhnat.nifhloinn@dcu.ie

Tutor Rep. - Anthony Brown, University College Dublin, anthony.brown@ucd.ie

Diarmuid Ó Sé, IT Carlow, Diarmuid.OSe@itcarlow.ie

Jonathan Cole, Queen's University Belfast, J.Cole@qub.ac.uk

The liaison from the NCE-MSTL is Niamh O'Meara, Niamh.OMeara@ul.ie

Membership Profile

The members of the IMLSN are Mathematics educators who have an interest in enriching the mathematics learning experience of students at third level. These include:

- Managers and directors of Mathematics Learning Support Centres in HEIs on the island of Ireland.
- Tutors working in Mathematics Learning Support
- Mathematics and Statistics lecturers who have an interest in mathematics education, and in students who are in transition. These students include both traditional learners entering Higher Education (HE) directly from second level and also adult learners entering HE.

IMLSN members are spread across the following 29 institutions throughout the island of Ireland:

University of Limerick, Dublin City University, Maynooth University, University College Dublin, NUI Galway, Trinity College Dublin, University of Ulster Jordanstown, Queens University Belfast, St Mary's University College, Belfast.

Athlone IT, IT Tallaght, IT Blanchardstown, IT Carlow, IT Tralee, Cork IT, Dublin Institute of Technology, Limerick IT, Dundalk IT, Waterford IT, Sligo IT, Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Letterkenny IT, and Galway/Mayo IT.

Mary Immaculate College, St. Patrick's College, Stranmillis University College, the National Centre for Excellence in Maths and Science Teaching and Learning, the Open University and the National College of Ireland.