

Forum Insights

IRISH NETWORK FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF WRITING

Mission

The Irish Network for the Enhancement of Writing (INEW) is a network of educators who wish to actively enhance their own writing and to help learners and colleagues to do likewise.

INEW is a network where colleagues from all across the sector are welcome to participate in the conversation around writing and the teaching of writing. The Network aims to consistently promote and facilitate the national conversation about writing.

Our goals as a network are directly aligned to those of both the Hunt report and the National Forum. The emphasis on oral and written communications skills as expressed in HE graduate attributes and institutional strategy documents has never been greater. We see our work as contributing to the achievement of these goals and believe that our input will have best effect where we work with students, teachers and education developers.

INEW aims to

- support educators in their sustained efforts to become better writers themselves and to help their students to become better writers;
- establish a collaborative space for talking about writing, sharing experiences, expertise and best practice, disseminating research findings, and extending the conversation on writing in all disciplines;
- provide an avenue to writing resources, including access to online resources, and to other writing and learning networks locally, nationally and internationally;
- provide a space for the inventing and nurturing of ideas and new possibilities around developing writing;
- facilitate a space for collaborative research projects and other research-led writing initiatives;
- provide a forum for the organisation of events, such as workshops and symposia, with a particular focus on writing;
- provide learning opportunities, such as training and mentoring, to further the practice and research of writing;
- seek out funding opportunities which would facilitate collaborative writing development activities;
- promote the development of student writing as part of the process of nurturing graduates who are articulate and can reach their full potential in their future professional and personal lives.

Work the Network is doing and will be doing in the coming months

INEW is currently co-ordinating a range of workshops, which fall under the broad heading of 'Connecting teaching and learning support and academic development with support for writers and writing', with a particular focus on addressing Continuing Professional Development (CPD) needs for teaching staff in HE.

As part of the spring writing series, the following workshops are taking place:

- Composition and Enquiry (Professor Chris Anson, University of North Carolina)
- Finding space for writing in the UG curriculum (Professor Chris Anson, University of North Carolina)
- Integrating written and oral communication into the curriculum (Professor Chris Anson, University of North Carolina)
- Academic Development Ð a forecast and guide to the years ahead (Prof Mary Deane Sorcinelli from UMass Amherst)

INEW is currently researching one key practical and theoretical question: what is the unique contribution that teaching and learning, academic development and educational development bring to supporting writing and writers. This question is being researched in collaboration with experts from the UK, Europe and the US. Preliminary findings will be presented at EuroSOTL.

INEW is currently working on the development of resources to support educators seeking to enhance student writing in the Irish HE sector. Three booklets on the following topics are being developed to support institutions and education developers facing these challenges:

- Setting up a writing centre
- Developing WAC (Writing Across the Curriculum) / WID (Writing in Disciplines) / WEC (Writing Enriched Curricula)
- Developing peer tutoring in writing support

These documents are being developed in collaboration with AISHE.

INEW ran the first summer institute in Ireland in summer 2014. INEW members have created a summer institute model around supporting writing, working closely with colleagues in Northern Ireland and further afield to develop this model.



Joining INEW

Interested colleagues can join the Network and participate in the on-going conversation on the development of writing by joining the INEW listserv. Details of all INEW events and workshops will be posted on the listserv.

To subscribe to INEW, please send an email to listserv@listserv.heanet.ie with subscribe INEW in the body of the e-mail.

For further information, please contact ide.osullivan@ul.ie