Conquering AI for effective teaching

Name of Institution/Organisation

Technological University of the Shannon

Who led the initiative?

Dr Patrick Browne, Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering

Date and timeframe of the initiative

Academic year 2024 – 2025 and ongoing.

What was the reach of the initiative?

81 staff to date.

TUS

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:
Lár Tíre, An tIarthar Láir
Technological University of the Shannon:
Midlands Midwest

Aims/Objectives

This workshop series aims to empower higher education professionals to harness the power of artificial intelligence (AI) and revolutionize their teaching practices. By delving into the rich history of AI, tracing its evolution from early concepts to cutting-edge applications, participants will gained a solid foundation in the field. Moreover, the series demystified the complex technical aspects of AI, making it accessible to individuals with diverse technical backgrounds. By focusing on real-world applications, participants learned how AI can be leveraged to enhance teaching and learning experiences, from personalized instruction to automated administrative tasks.

Ultimately, this workshop series prepared educators for the future of AI in education. By exploring the latest trends and emerging technologies, participants will be equipped to identify and address potential challenges and ethical considerations associated with AI implementation. Through hands-on activities and interactive discussions, participants developed the skills to effectively integrate AI tools and techniques into their teaching practices, fostering innovation and improving student outcomes.

Rationale and Identified Needs

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping industries and institutions worldwide. Higher education is no exception. As AI technologies continue to evolve, they offer unprecedented opportunities to enhance teaching and learning. However, the complexity of AI can be daunting for educators who may lack technical expertise.

This workshop aims to bridge this gap by providing educators with a comprehensive understanding of AI's potential and practical applications. By demystifying complex AI concepts and showcasing real-world examples, we will empower participants to gain a solid foundation in AI, explore the history, core principles, and current state of AI, including machine learning and natural language processing. Discover innovative teaching strategies, learn how to leverage AI tools to personalize instruction, automate tasks, and create engaging learning experiences. Address ethical considerations, understand the ethical implications of AI in education and develop responsible AI practices. Develop practical skills, participate in hands-on activities to apply AI tools and techniques to real-world teaching scenarios.

By the end of this workshop, participants will be equipped to embrace AI as a powerful tool to transform their teaching practices and improve student outcomes.

Frameworks, Policies, or Strategies Aligned (internal, local or national)

UNESCO's AI in Education Recommendation:

This global framework provides guidelines for the ethical and responsible use of AI in education, emphasizing human-centered design, equity, and inclusivity.

OECD AI Principles:

These principles provide a high-level framework for developing and deploying AI in a responsible manner, considering issues like transparency, accountability, and societal impact.

AI Literacy:

Promote AI literacy among students and faculty to foster critical thinking and digital citizenship.

Collaboration and Partnerships:

Foster collaborations between academia, industry, and government to advance AI research and development in education.

Categories	Elements	Topics	Target Groups
	Leadership, Strategy & Governance	Digital Transformation	Students
Coordinate	Curriculum and Assessment		Staff
Consult	Innovation in Teaching	Academic Integrity	
Create	Professional Development	Inclusive and Equitable Teaching Practices	
		Innovations in Assessment and Feedback	
		Student Engagement and Partnership	
		Artificial Intelligence	