

Welcome to the June edition of the Crannóg newsletter. We have lots to share with you in advance of the busy Summer period. We trialled a HTML email newsletter for our April/May mailing, but got many reports of it ending up in Spam folders, so this month we are back to basics. If you did miss our last mailing, you can catch up on GDPR in Higher Education and other activity by visiting the Crannóg website: <http://www.crannog-he.ie> and navigating to newsletters. If you no longer wish to receive newsletters, please do let us know by reply.

## UPDATES

In late May, we had the opportunity to host Prof Sally Brown in each partner institution. Sally ran workshops on **Leading in Teaching & Learning**, which were well attended and, as those of you who attended will know, incredibly rich learning experiences for all. Sally covered multiple aspects of Leadership in her workshops, the challenges and opportunities we have as leaders in teaching and learning within our institutions. A number of items arose repeatedly across the institutions and the project team are working on building resources around these. For example, the importance of the first six weeks of the first semester of the first year in Higher Education was a theme that each group committed to considering further over the coming months. A 6 minute summary video, produced with Sally, on this particular topic is available now on the Crannóg [website](#).

## HEA STUDY OF PROGRESSION IN IRISH HIGHER EDUCATION

In May, the HEA published a report on the progression of students from 2014/15 to 2015/16. The report includes all publicly funded higher education institutions. Progression from 1<sup>st</sup> into 2<sup>nd</sup> year is analysed according to gender, age, prior academic achievement, field of study, and NFQ level among other predictors.

The full report is accessible here: <http://hea.ie/assets/uploads/2018/05/HEA-Progression-Report-2018-FINAL.pdf>

## QAA ENHANCEMENT THEME CONFERENCE

The 15<sup>th</sup> QAA Enhancement theme conference, 'Evaluation, Evidence & Enhancement: Inspiring Staff & Students', took place in Glasgow in early June.

The conference looked at the ways HEIs are using evidence to enhance the student experience and student success in higher education. Resources from the conference, including recorded keynote presentations, are available online: <http://www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk/news-events/conference>

Examples of evidence include that taken from student evaluations, teaching awards, VLEs, graduate attributes, student-led projects, assessment and feedback and many more.

## NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL FORUM FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

### APPOINTMENT

The role of Director for the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning has just recently been filled with the return of Dr. Terry

Maguire. Terry successfully led the Forum through its first 4 years. The Crannóg project wish Terry the very best for her second term.

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Forum have also just recently published a call for applications for the **2018-19 Seminar Series**. Applications are invited under the themes of assessment, professional development, innovative teaching using technology, enabling policies for digital learning, and the Data-Enabled Student Success Initiative (DESSI) and student success.

This call is an excellent chance to open up conversations locally and nationally on key topics in higher education, raising awareness and promoting enhancement of teaching and learning. Applications can be made by anyone in HE institutions, so it might be a possibility for School/Department/Discipline Heads to consider.

More information is available here: <https://www.teachingandlearning.ie/current-calls/national-seminar-series-20182019/>

### NEW RESOURCE

The National Forum recently launched a 'Guide to Developing Enabling Policies for Digital Teaching and Learning'. The work follows a comprehensive review of policies internationally and consultation sectorally.

You can access the guide here: [https://www.teachingandlearning.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/TL\\_Briefing\\_EnablingPolicyGuide\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.teachingandlearning.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/TL_Briefing_EnablingPolicyGuide_WEB.pdf)

### LEARNING & TEACHING SPACES

In the last newsletter we mentioned the NUI Galway hosted conference on 'Design for Learning', which addressed issues related to teaching and learning spaces in higher education institutions. The event took place on June 15<sup>th</sup> and facilitated a number of discussions and debates around this key issue. Amongst some of the examples presented is the new Learning & Teaching Building at Monash University in Melbourne. If you are intrigued as to what the state-of-the-art is then visit the website and explore some of the fascinating facilities: <https://www.monash.edu/lt-building>

Conference participants were also provided with a copy of the UCISA Toolkit for Learning Spaces, which provides a useful resource, with examples of new building and refurbished venue design, practical suggestions for the management of such projects and tips for technology use. This also available online at <https://www.ucisa.ac.uk/learningspace>.

**Crannóg Team members** – *feel free to speak with your local contact or directly to Michelle (project coordinator)*

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Crannóg activities and resources: <http://www.crannog-he.ie>



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