



Learning and Teaching Developments

Quarterly updates from the Learning and Teaching Academy and Educational Development Unit

Welcome to Issue 16 of Learning and Teaching Developments - the quarterly newsletter from the Learning and Teaching Academy (LTA) and Educational Development Unit (EDU) at the University of the Highlands and Islands. This newsletter provides updates across areas including educational practice, scholarship and research, and current and forthcoming events, projects and initiatives from the EDU, LTA and other parts of the university.

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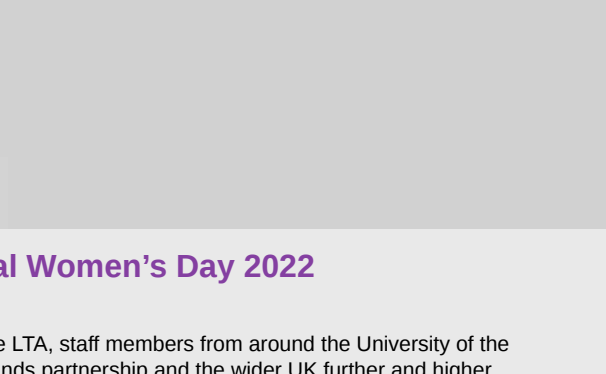
Developing the new Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy

The LTA is working to develop an updated Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy and is consulting widely with staff as part of this. We have already hosted a series of introductory consultation webinars and follow-up focus groups with specific staff roles. Phase 3 of the consultation will allow staff and students to hear about and give their feedback on a set of revised values for the new Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy. These sessions will take place the week beginning 21 March 2022 and are open to anyone working in the UHI partnership. More information is available on the [Strategy SharePoint Communications site](#).

[More information](#)

Gender-based violence (GBV) training materials shared with English universities

Two years ago, the EDU, in collaboration with EO Student Services, developed a training resource designed to raise awareness of GBV on Scottish campuses. The shocking escalation in reported domestic violence during COVID-19 has been called a 'shadow pandemic' and at the time there was no comparable resource designed for staff to increase their knowledge of GBV and provide them with skills to support affected students. The resource has become part of UHI's mandatory training suite and has been shared with every university, and several colleges, in Scotland. Following interest received at a recent sectoral meeting, we have now also shared our materials with five universities in England: University of Plymouth, London School of Economics, Loughborough University, Leeds Trinity and Lancaster University. We will elicit feedback from these institutions in future. Staff can access the GBV training resource via the [EDU Staff Resources site](#).



[More Information](#)

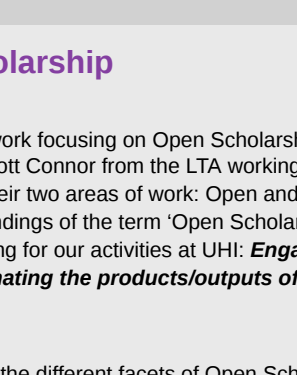
International Women's Day 2022

Coordinated by the LTA, staff members from around the University of the Highlands and Islands partnership and the wider UK further and higher education sector came together online to mark International Women's Day on Tuesday 8 March. In a full day of speakers, workshops and Pecha Kucha presentations, attendees explored the many ways in which women's equality in education and research are being approached or promoted, through this year's theme of #BreakTheBias. In addition to the event colleagues at UHI and across the sector are encouraged to contribute a paper to the Journal of Perspectives in Applied Academic Practice (JPAAP) on a special issue titled 'Breaking the Gender Bias in Academia and Academic Practice', to be published this autumn.

[More Information](#)

Learning Analytics - Course Overview Widget

The Course Overview Widget was launched in Brightspace on 24 January 2022 marking the start of the first pilot project identified by the university's Learning Analytics Steering Group. The widget, visible only to teaching staff, appears at the top right of every unit and module in Brightspace and provides a mini dashboard summary of activity that can be used to support students and enhance learning and teaching. A support resource has been created and more information can be found on the [UHI learning Analytics communications site](#) in [SharePoint](#).



[More Information](#)

Launching Open Scholarship

The LTA is starting a new area of work focusing on Open Scholarship with Heather Fotheringham and Scott Connor from the LTA working together on what is the intersection between their two areas of work: Open and Scholarship. Whilst there are different understandings of the term 'Open Scholarship', we are adopting the following understanding for our activities at UHI: **Engaging in scholarly activities and disseminating the products/outputs of these freely.**



A first step in raising awareness of the different facets of Open Scholarship is a short series of webinars taking place this academic year:

- 30 March 2022: [Developing an online presence that suits your style and purpose](#) Dr Sam Oakley (University of Glasgow)
- 20 April 2022: [The Future is Open – Why Open Scholarship is good for you and your career](#) Hardy Schwamm (NUI, Galway)

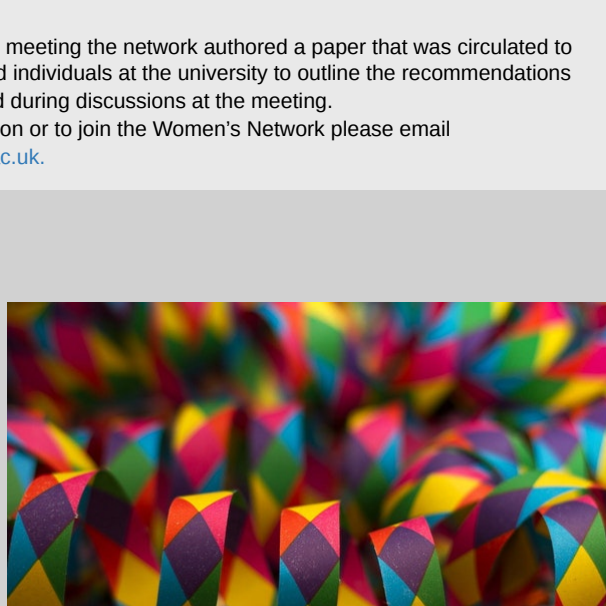
These will be followed by further events in 2022-23 including hands on writing workshops to assist colleagues in developing scholarly outputs.

[More Information](#)

The University Mentoring Scheme

This semester will see several short workshops to support colleagues engaged in [The University Mentoring Scheme](#) to develop mentoring practice and approaches. Although presented as separate workshops, each session is designed to build on the last and develop mentoring practice across the series of workshops. Participants are encouraged to attend all workshops where possible. The workshops cover:

- 23 March, 15:00-16:30 **Mentoring Development: Exploring mentor identity**
- 20 April, 12:00-13:00 **Mentoring Development: Defining goals and setting boundaries**
- 19 May, 09:30-11:00 **Mentoring Development: The mentoring conversation**
- 14 June, 12:00 – 13:00 **Mentoring Development: Giving feedback**



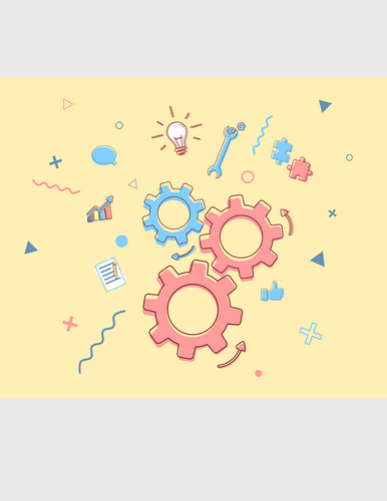
Please email lta@uhi.ac.uk to book and refer to the event listing for more information and for the pre-workshop tasks.

Colleagues might also find the University Mentoring Scheme newsletter of interest. You can [subscribe](#) to receive the quarterly newsletter or read it on the [LTA webpages](#) under 'Mentoring Newsletters'.

[More Information](#)

The UHI Women's Network

At a recent UHI Women's Network meeting that took place on the 14 December 2021 the network members explored how women at UHI are supported prior and through the menopause and to set out to outline several recommendations coming from the meeting.

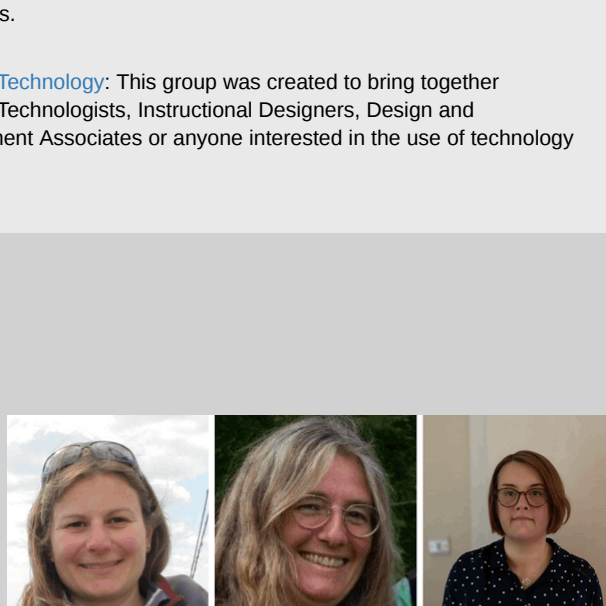


The Women's Network were joined by invited speakers Emma Smith and Fiona Killen from Burness Paull law firm based in Edinburgh, who shared how they took practical steps to help colleagues experiencing the menopause and how Burness Paull became the first menopause friendly accredited workplace in Scotland. This was achieved through integrating support into existing health and wellbeing policies, training and having menopause champions.

Following from the meeting the network authored a paper that was circulated to various groups and individuals at the university to outline the recommendations that were identified during discussions at the meeting. For more information or to join the Women's Network please email alex.walker@uhi.ac.uk.

ALPINE Success

ALPINE (Accredited Learning, Professional development and Innovation in Education) is the university's framework for the recognition of good practice in learning and teaching, which is accredited by AdvanceHE. This allows the university to recognise colleagues working in HE Learning and Teaching, including in supporting roles, with fellowships of the UK Higher Education Academy (HEA). Several colleagues were awarded fellowships at the recognition panel in January 2022:

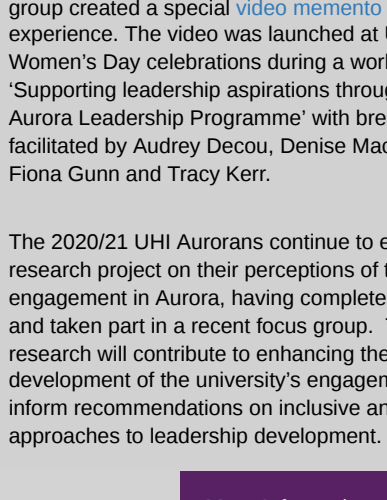


- Audrey Decoux Executive Office UHI Associate Fellow HEA
- Roni Walters Executive Office UHI Associate Fellow HEA
- Michele Smith Moray College UHI Fellow HEA
- Adele Robertson Moray College UHI Fellow HEA
- Kim Tree Perth College UHI Senior Fellow HEA

[More Information](#)

UHI Yammer

The LTA and EDU have a number of yammer groups for colleagues to share practice, information and stay connected.



- The Learning and Teaching Academy:** for upcoming internal and external development opportunities and to share good practice and information and news from the LTA.
- University Women's Network:** for all colleagues to share opportunities and information about women's equality at and beyond UHI, as well as upcoming dates for the UHI Women's Network meetings and book club.
- The University Mentoring Scheme:** for anyone who is interested in mentoring, being mentored or already mentoring through The University Mentoring Scheme to share mentoring resources, news and mentoring development opportunities.

There are a number of other groups in which colleagues in learning and teaching might also be interested:

- Forge:** Forge is a learning resource builder developed by Mark Wilkie of the Educational Development Unit. Share your thoughts, ideas and suggestions. about Forge on this site. Visit the [Forge website](#) for more information.
- Brightspace by D2L:** This is a space to share thoughts, tips, ideas and updates about the Brightspace Virtual Learning Environment with your colleagues.
- Learning Technology:** This group was created to bring together Learning Technologists, Instructional Designers, Design and Development Associates or anyone interested in the use of technology in L&T.

University engagement in Aurora Leadership Development Programme

The University's engagement in Advance HE Aurora Leadership Development Programme for those identifying as women, continues with the final development day for this year's UHI cohort of Aurorans was 2nd March and the group created a special [video memento](#) of their experience. The video was launched at UHI's International Women's Day celebrations during a workshop on 'Supporting leadership aspirations through the lens of the Aurora Leadership Programme' with breakout sessions facilitated by Audrey Decoux, Denise Maclean-Ferguson, Fiona Gunn and Tracy Kerr.

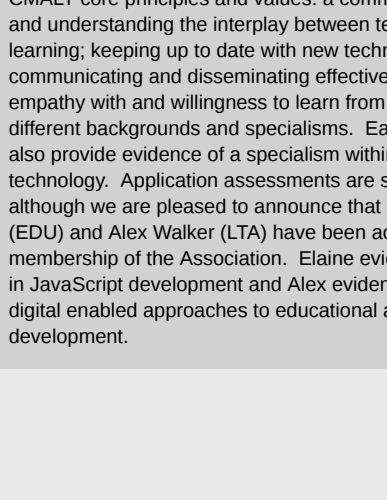


The 2020/21 UHI Aurorans continue to engage in the research project on their perceptions of the impact of their engagement in Aurora, having completed an online survey and taken part in a recent focus group. The findings of the research will contribute to enhancing the design and development of the university's engagement in Aurora and inform recommendations on inclusive and sustainable approaches to leadership development. [#DevelopingLTES](#)

[More Information](#)

Staff Development Fund

The [Staff Development Fund](#) continues to support colleagues from across the UHI network to undertake accredited programmes of study. This year the fund is supporting 50 colleagues to complete a wide range of qualifications from doctorates to undergraduate study. The fund makes valuable contributions to professional development and past recipients have said:



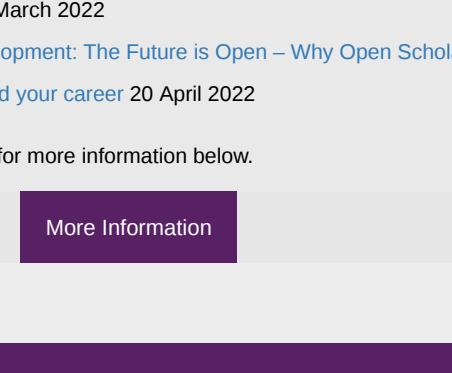
"This course of study has enabled me to build confidence in my own abilities but has equally given me a platform to develop new skills that I can use to further my career aspirations as well as providing me with ideas on how I can support the emotional needs of my students to enable them to achieve."
"I ... feel confident that the work I am producing is benefiting and contributing to not only my own goals, but the departmental goals too and is in turn benefiting our whole team"

Look out for our forthcoming webinar 'All you need to know about the Staff Development Fund' aimed at Staff Development Officers, or those with staff development responsibilities, across the partnership. The webinar will explore the criteria of the fund, the application process and roles and responsibilities of both the applicant, Line Manager and Staff Development Officer.

[More Information](#)

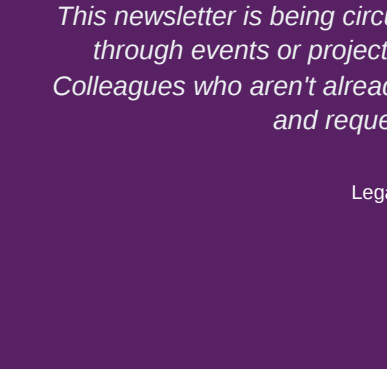
Certified Member of the Association for Learning Technology (CMALT)

Last academic year the LTA supported a small number of colleagues to submit applications for CMALT recognition. Supported by mentors through the University Mentoring Scheme, colleagues submitted applications providing evidence of reflective practice, and how their practice aligns to the CMALT core principles and values: a commitment to exploring and understanding the interplay between technology and learning; keeping up to date with new technologies, communicating and disseminating effective practice and empathy with and willingness to learn from colleagues from different backgrounds and specialisms. Each applicant must also provide evidence of a specialism within learning technology. Application assessments are still ongoing, although we are pleased to announce that Elaine Dalloway (EDU) and Alex Walker (LTA) have been accepted into membership of the Association. Elaine evidenced a specialism in JavaScript development and Alex evidenced a specialism in digital enabled approaches to educational and professional development.



Upcoming LTA Events

The Learning and Teaching Academy Team have hosted a series of events so far this semester including webinars, workshops and larger events. You can view session slides and recordings from our past events on the [LTA website here](#).



Spotlight on our upcoming events for the rest of the semester:

- Scholarship Development: Developing an online presence that suits your style and purpose** 30 March 2022
- LTA Connect: The Learning Landscape from UHI to Canada: Creating connection, understanding and collaboration in our virtual learning environments** 31 March 2022
- Scholarship Development: The Future is Open – Why Open Scholarship is good for you and your career** 20 April 2022

Visit the [LTA Events page](#) for more information below.

[More Information](#)

This newsletter is being circulated to colleagues who have engaged with the LTA and EDU through events or projects, although we hope you consider sharing this more widely. Colleagues who aren't already signed up to receive this newsletter can email lta@uhi.ac.uk and request to be added to the newsletter mailing list.