



# 'EYE' ON LETTERKENNY IT (LYIT)



## LYIT MISSION STATEMENT

To continuously develop as an academic institution of international repute, serving regional and national needs and pursuing, in a collaborative fashion, an ambitious progressive agenda that delivers on the aspirations of its vibrant Institute population and its external stakeholders.

## LYIT STRATEGIC PLAN

The current Strategic Plan 2007-2013 and has activity focused objectives grouped under the three interlinked strategic domains of Teaching and Learning; Learner Experience; and Research, Innovation and Enterprise.

Objectives set out under Teaching and Learning encourage more flexible approaches to teaching and assessment, development of teaching materials, use of technology and further support for lecturers including pedagogical support. In addition, there are plans for a review of programme provision, improving program delivery in light of learner feedback, utilising links with relevant external bodies to inform program development and the further enhancement of language education. Further details at [http://www.lyit.ie/about%20us/strategic\\_plan.html](http://www.lyit.ie/about%20us/strategic_plan.html)

## NORTH WEST GATEWAY STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

The North West Gateway Strategic Alliance proposal was among the successful projects funded under Cycle 2 of the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF). The aim of this Strategic Alliance is to develop closer collaboration between LYIT and the University of Ulster (UU).

The Strategic Innovation Fund aims to stimulate innovation in higher education and research through collaboration between institutions. This SIF project will take approximately eighteen months to complete and is significant as it is the only cross-border proposal funded via SIF.

## LYIT AND LIN

LYIT is represented by Dr. Averil Meehan, at meeting of the LIN Steering Group and also the LIN Academic Professional Development (APD) sub group.

A bus was arranged to facilitate staff attendance at the first Learning Innovation Network Conference in October. This conference was a great success and staff from LYIT who attended were very enthusiastic and said they benefited greatly.

There will be two LIN workshops to be held at LYIT in May, one on Formative Assessment and another on Problem Based Learning.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING AT LYIT

The overall aim of LYIT's Teaching and Learning strategy is to ensure that every student reaches their full potential not only in their academic success but also in their confidence and ability to take responsibility for their own learning so that future education can be readily undertaken, both to keep ahead of innovations in their chosen field and also to embrace new areas of knowledge.

There is a dedicated senior Academic Teaching and Learning post at LYIT with a 50% reduction in teaching workload in order to foster excellence in Teaching and Learning at LYIT and lead the development and implementation of the Teaching and Learning Strategy

A Teaching and Learning Working Group was set up in October 2008 with representatives from the School of Business, the School of Engineering and the School of Science. The draft Teaching and Learning Strategy was discussed at the working group and a revised draft is currently being prepared to address the input received.

## ACADEMIC STAFF DEVELOPMENT

One of the aims of LYIT Teaching and Learning is to encourage all staff to develop their scholarship of teaching by undertaking professional development in the field of Education.

LYIT Academic staff are currently taking the Postgraduate Certificate / Diploma / MEd in Higher Education Practice (HEP) courses with the University of Ulster. There are ten LYIT staff on the HEP certificate course currently taking their last module and due to finish in June 2009. There are fourteen LYIT staff on the HEP diploma course, and they have recently finished their last module. As this module was delivered entirely online, support meetings were arranged for participating LYIT staff.

As part of the requirements for staff delivering Veterinary modules, two lecturers from the School of Science are currently taking a Level 9 Post Graduate Training and Education Award at Griffith College, Dublin.

## SEMINARS / SHORT COURSES

In addition to formal pedagogical education, there is a need for seminars and workshops of shorter duration to support the academic educational development of staff at LYIT. The following workshops / seminars have been held at LYIT during this past year

- Disability and Access and Inclusion in Third Level Education
- Recognition of Prior Learning Workshops
  - Writing Learning Outcomes for RPL purposes
  - Assessing RPL Portfolios
  - The LYIT RPL policy
- Library Resources to Support Academic Research
- E-Learning in Finland
- Using WebCT to Support Teaching
  - Workshop 1 – a starter workshop suitable for staff new to WebCT.
  - Workshop 2 – explore various ways of getting content onto WebCT
  - Workshop 3- Introducing the three assessment tools in WebCT.
  - Workshop 4 – Using collaborative and discussion tools in WebCT.
- Research Methods
- Assessment Strategies and Exam Writing

Future workshops arranged:

- Lecturing Approaches, Techniques and Resources.
- LIN workshops on Formative Assessment and on Problem Based Learning

## SHOWCASE OF INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

### **Showcase of resources Access Office**

Roisin McCormack showcased resources from the Access Office useful for lecturers taking Communications and/or Study Skills either as a module or part of a module.

### **Showcase of WebCT Use to support Teaching**

Members of staff demonstrated innovative use of WebCT in the School of Business, School of Engineering, and in the School of Science.

## PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS

These are held for staff and repeated as required. Suggestions for these come from staff themselves. Topics include; Using Computing Facilities at LYIT, Library Resources for Research, WebCT support.

## THE ACCESS OFFICE

LYIT's Access office was established in 2001 to fulfil LYIT's commitment to widening access to the Institute for people who have traditionally been unable to benefit from higher education opportunities. Students supported include mature students, students with disabilities, students from low income families and ethnic minorities.

The Access Office is staffed by the Access Officer, two Learning Support Specialists and a clerical officer. A number of additional staff are employed to support particular Access Office initiatives which are housed in the Learning Support Unit at LYIT.

## RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Oran Doherty is the RPL Facilitator at LYIT and has been very active in the area of RPL since the 2006 Lionra led project aimed at Recognising Learning In The Workplace. Since then Oran has developed the LYIT RPL Policy, provided staff training, identified suitable modules and prepared RPL assessment tools, promoted RPL to employers and organized the RPL Regional Symposium at LYIT, which was very well attended.

## EUROPEAN PROJECT

European project: LYIT is the Irish partner in the Grundtvig 2 Lifelong Learning Project IANUS. There are ten IANUS partners working on issues relevant to working with learners aged 50 and over. LYIT is responsible for the development and maintenance of the IANUS Project Website as well as working with other partners to produce the project deliverables. More details at [http://www.ianusllp.com/project\\_objectives.html](http://www.ianusllp.com/project_objectives.html)



## TEACHING AND LEARNING INITIATIVES

For more information on Teaching and Learning Initiatives at LYIT contact

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