

Cylchlythyr | Circular

Request for case studies on enhancing learning and teaching through technology

Date: 10 April 2014
Reference: W14/12HE
To: Heads of higher education institutions in Wales
Principals of directly-funded further education colleges in Wales
Response by: 30 May 2014
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This circular asks institutions to provide three case studies on Enhancing Learning and Teaching through Technology (ELTT) to HEFCW by 30 May 2014. HEFCW will publish these in order to disseminate information and share good practice regarding activity in Wales.

If you require this document in an alternative accessible format, please telephone us on (029) 2068 2225 or email info@hefcw.ac.uk.



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Introduction

1. This circular asks each institution to provide three case studies on Enhancing Learning and Teaching through Technology (ELTT) to HEFCW by 30 May 2014. HEFCW will publish these in order to disseminate information and share good practice regarding activity in Wales.

Background

2. In 2008 we published a ten year [technology-enhanced learning strategy](#) which we supported with £1 million to run the [Gwella project](#) and [Building Capacity programme](#).
3. In publishing the strategy we recognised that it would need to be reviewed at regular intervals. The strategy was [refreshed](#) in 2011. HEFCW convened an expert group in early 2014 to advise on refreshing the strategy for a final time. The composition of this group is available at **Annex A**.

Case studies

4. Our expert group advised that it would be helpful for HEFCW to carry out some form of light touch evaluation of implementation of the strategy to date. It proposed doing this in a way which would provide opportunities to disseminate good practice in the sector more broadly, including beyond Wales.
5. It advised that the most appropriate approach would be for HEFCW to ask institutions for the following:
 - A summary of the impact of the strategy to date, in partnership with their student union; and
 - Three case studies on examples of how the institution has sought to enhance learning and teaching through technology. The case studies should be linked to an objective of the strategy, and should comprise one example in each of the three following categories:
 - The institution's favourite case study. This should be a case study which you would like to showcase, has had an impact within the institution, and/or transformed practice, either within a pocket of the institution or institution-wide. It could be highly innovative, and may (although not necessarily) be very tailored to the institutional context or a discipline, and therefore may not be readily embedded elsewhere;
 - The most portable case study – ie one which has scope to be readily embedded in other disciplines or institutions. We would like this one in order to drive forward the implementation of good practice from elsewhere.
 - A case study on something which was tried, was unsuccessful, but which provided some useful lessons. We would like this case study

in order to share experiences of initiatives which did not work, in order to share that experience and also to encourage others to look at alternative means of achieving the aims of that initiative.

6. HEFCW will publish the case studies and a summary of the impact statements in order to disseminate information and share good practice regarding activity in Wales. Our aspiration is that the case studies will also encourage further collaboration between institutions, and facilitate embedding of good practice developed in the sector.
7. If the case studies relate to open educational Resources (OER), then institutions may choose to feed them into the OER 2015 event, which is to be held in Cardiff. This will be the sixth in a series of high profile conferences which celebrate open educational practice (OEP). Institutions may also wish to develop the case studies as OERs, if they consider this appropriate/relevant, to align with the work being led by the Higher Education Wales Pro Vice-Chancellors' Learning and Teaching Advisory Group. The work of that group is being supported by a £150k grant from HEFCW, with the aim of ensuring that OERs and OEP become embedded within institutions.

Final evaluation of the strategy

8. We will carry out a full evaluation of the strategy after it ends in 2016/17. Further details of the process to be used will be published nearer the time.

Further information / responses to

9. For further information, contact Dr Cliona O'Neill (tel 029 2068 2283; email cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk).

Annex A – ELTT Advisory Group Members

Paul Bailey, Jisc;

Rachel Cable, Higher Education Wales (HEW);

Andy Coulthard, Higher Education Funding Council England;

Geoff Glover / Terry McAndrew, Higher Education Academy;

John Grattan, Pro-Vice Chancellor Aberystwyth University;

Stephanie Lloyd, President National Union of Students Wales;

Ruth Matheson, National Teaching Fellow;

Clive Mulholland, Chair of the HEW Pro Vice-Chancellor's Learning and Teaching Advisory Group;

Lis Parcell, Jisc RSC Wales;

Patricia Price, Pro-Vice Chancellor Cardiff University;

Pete Richardson, Grwp Coleg Llandrillo;

Jo Smedley, University of South Wales;

Julie Snelson, Higher Education Wales Information Technology;

Jane Thomas, National Teaching Fellow;

Dafydd Trystan / Owain Huw, Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol;

Steve Williams, Wales Higher Education Libraries Forum;

Kate Wright, Aberystwyth University.