



# DIGITAL LEARNING FORUM SHOWCASE

17 June 2020



Insights into GMIT Digital  
Learning Projects  
Supporting the GMIT  
BOLT Initiative

# Digital Learning Project Descriptions

17 June 2020

## GALWAY CAMPUS

### Careers Office

**Online Employability Module:** The Online Employability Module is a Level 7, 5 ECTS module which aims to develop the student professionally and personally and to equip them with the skills and knowledge to enable them to plan for and achieve their career goals. This online course is for students who are interested in developing their self-knowledge and realising their career potential as they are brought through a 3-stage developmental programme which incorporates Self-Awareness, The Employability Toolkit and their First 100 Days in the Workplace. It aims to support students through a process of self-discovery leading to developing a successful career plan. The material provided offers a relevant structure and support for navigation of the current Recruitment and Selection process. This module can also be taken standalone free of assessment. *(Bridie Killoran, Careers Office, Orla Skehill, Teaching & Learning Office & Natasha Rohan, Dept of Electronic & Electrical Engineering)*



### Computing Services

**Online IT Support Model:** Given the recent shift and dependency on online to remain operational, Computing Services will outline the services available to staff and students to assist them on this journey. The presentation will be practical and informative. Attendees will leave with a more complete picture of the integrated systems and virtual spaces enabling learning, teaching and work, to proceed remotely with single sign on, ease of access and high security. We will also outline the platforms and tools are recommended for the new academic year including new Moodle features, and new IT systems & services being deployed to support this "New World." *(Donal McGinty, Mary O'Donnell, Garrett Jordan, Gary Brennan & Kieran Heneghan, Computing Services Team)*

### Galway International Hotel School

**Religious Studies Redevelopment:** A new dawn for the BA (Hons) in Religious Studies is being explored, by converting much of its conventional delivery to an online/blended context. We are reviewing and restructuring the entire programme to establish what can be delivered online and in what way, to ensure that the unique nature of this programme - designed to intrigue, challenge, and inform - is sustained in its new mode. *(Barry McMillan, Diarmuid Ó Conghaile, Dept of Heritage & Tourism, Humanities, Applied Languages & Communications & Dr Pauline Logue, Letterfrack Campus)*



# Digital Learning Project Descriptions

## Continued...

### School of Business

**Certificate in Blockchain for Business–Springboard+:** The springboard+ upskilling initiative in higher education offers free courses at certificate, degree and masters level leading to qualifications in areas where there are employment opportunities in the economy. Springboard+ is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Social Fund as part of the ESF programme for employability, inclusion and learning 2014-2020. The Department of Enterprise and Technology currently provide two NFQ Level 8 courses which are delivered online: [Business Analytics](#) and [Blockchain for Business](#). The presentation by Trevor Clohessy will feature insights and lessons harnessed from both online courses. *(Dr Trevor Clohessy, Dept of Enterprise & Technology)*

**DALTAI Learning Analytics National Forum Project:** [Daltai](#) (Irish for “Students”) is a collaborative project between TU Dublin and GMIT funded by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning, which aims to increase digital proficiencies amongst staff and students in higher education, particularly in relation to the effective use of learning data to promote student success. Recognising the potential of learning analytics for supporting student success, since 2016 the National Forum has prioritised capacity-building in this strategic area, resulting in “Online Resources for Learning Analytics (ORLA)” and their sector-wide “Data-Enabled Student Success Initiative (DESSI)”. Building on this important work, Daltai aims to develop an evidenced-based strategy and implementation plan that addresses the professional development requirements of higher education staff in relation to the effective use of learning data to support learning, teaching and assessment processes. *(Phelim Murnion, Dept of Enterprise & Technology)*



**Online Proctoring Services Pilot Experience:** Online examinations have become the new norm. Establishing identity and conformance with exam rules and regulations is a problem online. Proctoring addresses these constraints using an online service and software: checking the ID of the candidate and recording the exam session. Proctoring has been under trial on the Certificate in Business Analytics (online) in the Department of Enterprise and Technology, in collaboration with the Teaching and Learning Office. Proctoring has provided valuable benefits in exam security and online flexibility and lessons have been learned about technical and procedural challenges. *(Phelim Murnion, Dept of Enterprise & Technology)*

### School of Engineering

**BIM Futures National Forum Project:** The [Building Information Management \(BIM\) Futures](#) project funded by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education aims to develop a suite of professional development capacity resources for academic staff, students and industry stakeholders. This will include the design and piloting of online BIM Educator and BIM Transition Digital Badges. *(Dr Mark Kelly, Dept of Building & Civil Engineering)*



**BIM Springboard Course:** The flexible industry-focused Higher Diploma in Engineering in BIM has transitioned from a face-to-face weekly workshop approach to a bi-weekly blended approach with 75% online delivery and 25% online delivery, which has been supported by Springboard funding. This has provided greater flexibility for participants, many of who are working full-time in industry. *(Dr Mark Kelly, Dept of Building & Civil Engineering)*

# Digital Learning Project Descriptions

## Continued...

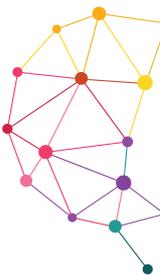
**Digital Open Badges:** [Digital Open Badges](#) offer a way to communicate achievements and strengths. They are usually used online, however can also be used on CVs to differentiate individuals from others. The type of activity/behaviour/learning that can be recognised with Digital Open Badges is unlimited. A key aspect of digital open badges is that they are easily shared across various platforms. An open standard was developed by the Mozilla Foundation, which sets out a framework for creating, issuing and validating the badges. An element of this standard approach is that the digital badge contains meta-data along with the image of the badge. This meta-data contains information such as: a description of the badge, who issued the it, when it was issued, who it was issued to, and what criteria the recipient had to meet in order to obtain the badge. This information validates the badge and ensures that only someone who has truly earned the badge can obtain and display it. A recent doctoral study found evidence of badges increasing engagement and motivation among GMIT students. *(Dr Wayne Gibbons, Dept of Building & Civil Engineering)*

**Future Build Educate National Forum Project:** [Future Build Educate](#) is a teaching and learning landing website designed for professionals, students, staff and researchers in Architecture, Engineering and Construction and the Built Environment. The website provides links to freely available online continuing professional development courses. The courses use technology enhanced learning and have been designed with industry input and higher education best practice. They are offered to staff and students in GMIT and CUA collaborative partners as reusable learning objects which can be incorporated as online learning, blended learning or flipped classrooms into modules and programmes in the Built Environment. Free online courses, fee paying micro credential courses and learning pathways to post graduate qualifications to be announced in the next academic year. *(Irene Hayden, Dept of Building & Civil Engineering)*



## School of Science & Computing

**Data Analytics to Inform and Enrich Learning in GMIT:** This collaborative and multi-disciplinary project seeks to use learning analytics to capture and transform learning in first year science programmes. A key output is the automation and dashboarding of personalised feedback forms a process which has been embedded in the school since 2015 in Maths and Chemistry. Research conducted over 5 years reveals that frequent personalised feedback motivates learners and changes learning behaviours. The analytics dashboard can be used by lecturers and decision makers to monitor online engagement, at risk students and will offer learners a weekly summary of their progress in Maths and Chemistry. To promote inclusivity and collaboration the team have created a lecturer Moodle sandbox with "how to" instructional material for staff who may wish to use course completion conditions, progress bar, and formula-based gradebook in order extract actionable analytics. The project will create and train models using current data within Moodle 3.7 and Moodle 3.8 to move beyond descriptive analytics to include predictive, diagnostic, and prescriptive analytics to inform and enrich learning in GMIT. *(Dr Etain Kiely, Dept of Biopharmaceutical & Medical Science, Dr Cormac Quigley, Dept of Natural Sciences & Garrett Jordan, Computing Services)*



# Digital Learning Project Descriptions

## Continued....

**MSc in Applied Sport & Exercise Nutrition (Blended):** In September 2019, a blended learning [Master of Science in Applied Sports and Exercise Nutrition](#) was launched in the Department of Natural Sciences. Is it possible to teach such an applied professional qualification without a high volume of labs that we pride ourselves on delivering in GMIT? If so, what steps need to be taken to develop those applied skills in a blended-learning setting, and how can we foster a close-knit class-group despite being located as far apart as Kerry and Donegal? (*Nóra Ní Fhlannagáin, Dept of Natural Sciences*)

**Power App for Maths Interactivity:** This project investigates the potential of power apps to connect, engage and support learners in maths in the first 6 weeks of college life. The app offers an interactive interface which demonstrates and enables first year students to access the suite of Maths learning spaces and tools from their phone. The app links the learner to Live Lectures (Teams), Interactive Notes (OneNote Classroom), Assessments (Moodle Quizzes and Assignments) and Help (Virtual Agent with frequently asked questions) as well the opportunity to Book a Group or 1 to 1 slot with the maths Lecturing Team. The app introduces the learner to the Maths Team and their Team buddies (tutorial group). Additional Features such as track my progress with personalized feedback will allow students to track their progress. A demonstration of the interactive dimensions of OneNote will be showcased as the primary self-paced maths online learning space. (*Dr Etain Kiely, Dept of Biopharmaceutical & Medical Science*)



**Taking 'Computing' Beyond the Campus Walls:** In January 2017, GMIT launched its first fully online ('mayor award') programme of study, when the Higher Diploma in Software Development transitioned from being a fully on-campus offering to an online only offering. A second 100% online higher diploma (in Data Analytics) was validated in 2018 and launched in January 2019. Collectively these postgraduate "skills conversion" programmes currently have circa 350 students enrolled. Taking 'GMIT Computing' online was borne out of shared belief within the team that our reach could – and should – extend beyond our walls. This new pathway has been both challenging and rewarding and remains a journey rather than a destination. In the session, lessons learned, challenges encountered and endured, and possibilities for the future are discussed. (*Dr Sean Duignan, Dept of Computer Science & Applied Physics*)

## Teaching & Learning Office

CUA [iNOTE](#) Digital Teaching & Learning Project / [www.DigitalEd.ie](http://www.DigitalEd.ie) Knowledge Platform

National Forum for the Enhancement of [Teaching & Learning Projects 2020/21](#)

Online / Blended Teaching & Learning, [Level 1-3 Development Guide](#)



GMIT Teaching and Learning Office is leading the development of a digital teaching and learning platform named [DigitalEd.ie](#) for the CUA [iNOTE](#) project. This includes a digital discovery tool, a digital education community, a team of digital champions, a digital resources directory and a suite of online education courses for staff to build digital capabilities and pedagogic expertise, in order to design, deliver and support flexible, distance and online learning programmes. This work package also include consultation and mentoring from an international partner (NY State University/SUNY) with a focus on replicating best online and flexible delivery practice. (*Project Lead GMIT, Dr Carina Ginty*).

# Digital Learning Project Descriptions

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This session will also introduce the CUA iNOTE Online Student Support Services that will be available to GMIT students from the Autumn and introduce the range of National Forum funded projects being led out by colleagues in Business, Science and Engineering in 2020/21.

*(Dr Carina Ginty, Jessica Duffy, Orla Skehill & Annette Cosgrove, Teaching & Learning Office Team).*  
See <https://galwaymayoinstitute.sharepoint.com/sites/TLO/SitePages/Home.aspx>

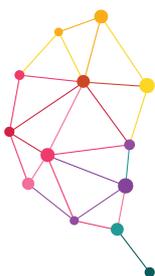
## LETTERFRACK CAMPUS

**eWIL Project:** The eWIL project aims to develop capabilities and implement systems and technologies for the delivery of work-integrated modules and programmes. The project is focused on programmes relevant to the Furniture and Wood Manufacturing Industry, currently being delivered in Letterfrack. It is proposed to deliver years 3 and 4 of these programmes to students working in the industry. This new departure in programme design see the first two years in intensive education in Letterfrack, followed by another two years work-integrated learning to achieve a level 8 award. A second important element of the eWIL project is the development of a Department of Creative Education, expanding GMIT's suite of education programmes, research capacity and partnerships. *(Dermot O'Donovan, Letterfrack Campus)*

## MAYO CAMPUS

**Blended Learning Programmes:** The [Master of Science in Digital Media and Marketing](#) was introduced this year as a follow on from the very successful, Springboard funded, Level 9 Certificate in Digital Media and Marketing. These programmes and others on the Mayo Campus are delivered in blended format. Our students attend for 2 days per month (Thursday and Friday) for practical computer lab-based sessions, group work and active discussion. Feedback from a current MSc student regarding the blended delivery: "The mix of onsite college days and online video learning were essential to progression in the course." *(Noreen Henry, Dept of Business, Humanities & Technology)*

**Digital Health Insights:** The Digital Health/eHealth Project ([Certificate in eHealth](#)) focus is on the principal of equipping current and future health professionals with the knowledge and understanding that will drive the wider deployment of digital health. The aim of the online programme is to introduce students to the concepts, strategies, technologies and standards that are driving digital healthcare in Ireland. *(Richard Holmes, Dept of Nursing, Health Sciences & Social Care)*



# Digital Learning Project Presentations

Welcome

## Computing Services

*Donal McGinty, IT Manager* | Online IT Support Model

## School of Science & Computing

*Dr Sean Duignan, Head of Dept of Computer Science & Applied Physics* | Higher Diplomas in Computing - Software Development (ICT Skills/Springboard)

*Dr Cormac Quigley, Lecturer in Chemistry & Forensic Science, Dr Etain Kiely, Lecturer in Maths & Garrett Jordan, IT Services* | Data Analytics to Inform and Enrich Learning in GMIT (T&L Office NF Project)

*Dr Etain Kiely, Lecturer in Maths* | Power App for Maths Interactivity (T&L Office NF Project)

*Nóra Ní Fhlannagáin, Lecturer in Public Health Nutrition* | MSc in Applied Sport & Exercise Nutrition

## Careers Office

*Bridie Killoran, Careers Officer* | Online Employability Module

## Letterfrack Campus

*Dermot ODonovan, eWIL Project Manager* | eWIL Project

## Galway International Hotel School

*Barry McMillan, Lecturer in Ethics & Religious Studies* | Religious Studies Redevelopment

## School of Business

*Dr Trevor Clohessy, Lecturer in Business Information Systems & Transformative Technologies* | Certificate in Blockchain for Business (Springboard)

*Phelim Murnion, Lecturer in Business Information Systems* | DALTAI Learning Analytics National Forum Project  
Online Proctoring Services Pilot Experience

## School of Engineering

*Dr Wayne Gibbons, Lecturer in Building & Civil Engineering* | Digital Open Badges

*Dr Mark Kelly, Lecturer in Building & Civil Engineering* | BIM Futures National Forum Project  
BIM Springboard Course

*Irene Hayden, Lecturer in Architectural Technology* | Future Build Educate National Forum Project

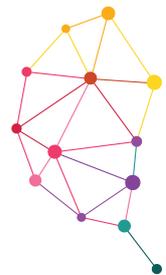
## Mayo Campus

*Noreen Henry, Technology Lecturer* | Blended Learning Programmes

*Richard Holmes, Lecturer in Nursing & Health Sciences* | Digital Health Insights

## Teaching & Learning Office

*Dr Carina Ginty, Teaching & Learning Officer / iNOTE Project Lead* | CUA iNOTE Digital Teaching & Learning Project / DigitalEd.ie Knowledge Platform  
Level 1-3 Online/Blended Teaching Development Guide  
National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning Projects 2020/21



# Digital Learning Forum Showcase

17 June 2020



*For further information on GMIT's Digital Learning Forum Showcase, please contact:  
Dr Carina Ginty, GMIT Lead iNOTE Digital Teaching and Learning Programme or  
Jessica Duffy, GMIT iNOTE Project Coordinator*

[www.DigitalEd.ie](http://www.DigitalEd.ie) | [DigitalEd@gmit.ie](mailto:DigitalEd@gmit.ie)