

#DigitalEd26



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DigitalEd 2026 Conference in partnership with GenAI:N3

May 13th
ATU Galway
Campus

Future-Ready Universities:
Sustainable Digital Practices and Pedagogical Uses of AI in Teaching and Learning

Conference Programme

Learn more at DigitalEd.ie

Register to attend the conference at this link - [Click Here](#)

▪ In-person registration deadline: 09/05/2026 ▪ Online registration deadline: 12/05/2026



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HEA

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas
The Higher Education Authority



NATIONAL FORUM
FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF TEACHING
AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Wednesday 13th May

TIME	ROOM	SESSION TITLE	PRESENTER	THEME
9.30 - 09.45am	1000	Welcome and Conference Opening Address President Atlantic Technological University	Dr Orla Flynn (ATU) Ireland	
9.30 - 09.45am	1000	Introduction of Keynote	Dr Carina Ginty (ATU DigitalEd Conference Chair)	
9.45 - 10.30am	1000	Using technology to create a 'commuter compassionate' learning experience in higher education	Prof. Liz Thomas (University of York)	Keynote 1 Dr Carina Ginty, Session Chair
10.30-11.30am		PARALLEL SESSIONS 1	Dr Niamh Plunkett (ATU), Session Chair	
10.30-11.30am	1000	ATU Skills Discovery Tool: Bridging Student Skills with Industry Needs	Bridie Killoran (ATU)	Transformative Education in learning and teaching
10.30-11.30am	1000	The Marketing Minds Experience: A Transformative, Student Led Open Day Workshop	Dr Áine Doherty (ATU)	
10.30-11.30am	1000	"Designing and Delivering Health Promotion Micro-Credentials in a Master's Context at the University of Galway"	Dr Aoife Howard (University of Galway) Dr Mary Joe Lavelle (University of Galway)	
10.30-11.30am	1000	Exploring Supports for Industry-Experienced, Mature Students Applying for and Completing the Part-Time BSc in Quality for Industry, (level 7 and level 8) in ATU Galway	Rachel McCarthy (ATU)	
10.30-11.30am	1000	Interactive Python Notebooks: Scaffolding Mathematical Intuition Through AI-Assisted Design	Fionn Downes (ATU)	
10.30-11.30am	1000	Developing a Participatory Design Framework for Transparent and Ethical AI-Driven Predictive Learning Analytics in Higher Education	Clare Walsh (TU Dublin)	Ethical use of AI

TIME	ROOM	SESSION TITLE	PRESENTER	THEME
10.30-11.30am		PARALLEL SESSIONS 2	Dr John Scahill (ATU), Session Chair	
10.30-11.30am	994	Student Behaviour and GenAI: Evidence from EBL Sessions in First-Year Dental Education: Descriptive study	Shahnawaz Khijmatgar (RCSI)	GenAI and navigating its role in teaching and learning
10.30-11.30am	994	Temporal Friction as Pedagogy: Designing AI-Aware Assessment that Protects Judgement in Creative Education	Gerald Kennedy (ATU)	
10.30-11.30am	994	Incorporating AI in the Assessment Process using a 3-step Approach	Marilla Keating (ATU)	
10.30-11.30am	994	Allowable AI: Setting boundaries for ethical learning	Maire Carr (ATU)	
10.30-11.30am	994	Reflection and Considerations for Building Custom GPT T&L Support Tools in the HE Context	Katherine Whitehurst (MIC)	
10.30-11.30am	994	Connected for Change: Digital Technology, Global Learning, and Education for Sustainable Development	Prof Stephanie Doscher	
11.30-11.45 am	Café Foyer	BREAK		
11.45 - 12.30pm	1000	Inclusive and Compassionate Assessment in the Age of AI	Prof Maha Bali (Center for Learning and Teaching at The American University in Cairo (AUC))	Keynote 2 Dr Carina Ginty, Session Chair
12.30-1.15pm		LIGHTNING TALKS A	Annette Cosgrove (ATU), Session Chair	
12.30-1.15pm	1000	Supporting critical thinking about 'wicked' environmental problems in early undergraduate science students	Dr Katie O'Dwyer (ATU)	Education for Sustainable Development

TIME	ROOM	SESSION TITLE	PRESENTER	THEME
12.30-1.15pm	1000	Playing to Learn: Using AI to Design Lecturer-Created Board Games as Playful Assessment in Higher Education	Louise Kilbane (ATU)	Immersive Learning: Innovative Pedagogies
12.30-1.15pm	994	Digital Tools for Graduate Employability: The University Skills Passport and Health Promotion Education in Galway, Ireland.	Dr Allison Dunne (University of Galway)	
12.30-1.15pm	1000	Embedding in-process assessment of critical thinking and contextual learning into the final year undergraduate research project	Dr Therese Montgomery (ATU)	
12.30-1.15pm	1000	Attending to Care in Responsible and Innovative Design: An Immersive Pedagogical Approach for Higher Education	Mary Nolan (ATU)	
12.30-1.15pm	1000	Catch your lobster and eat it!	Ulrich Hoeche (ATU)	
12.30-1.15pm		LIGHTNING TALKS B	Dr Deirdre McClay (ATU), Session Chair	
12.30-1.15pm	994	Beyond Tools: Preparing Educators for Inclusive Immersive Learning	Yvonne Sarsfield (ATU)	Immersive Learning: Innovative Pedagogies
12.30-1.15pm	994	A Bluffer's (Educators) Guide to GenAI and LLMs	Dr. Shane Wilson (ATU)	GenAI and navigating its role in teaching and learning
12.30-1.15pm	994	Teaching and Trust: Lecturer Anxiety in the Age of Generative AI	Dr Máire O Sullivan (MTU)	
12.30-1.15pm	994	When to lean on the machine: Redesigning Architectural Education for an AI-literate future	Susan Galavan (ATU)	
12.30-1.15pm	994	Staff and student perspectives on GenAI in Scottish Higher Education	Assoc. Prof. Rosemarie McIlwhan (Heriot-Watt University)	

TIME	ROOM	SESSION TITLE	PRESENTER	THEME
12.30-1.15pm	994	Vibe Coding in the Wild - From Prompt to Prototype, Building Day by Day with GenAI (and Care)	Ken McCarthy (SETU)	GenAI and navigating its role in teaching and learning
1.15-2pm	Café Foyer	LUNCH (with 'Catch your Lobster and eat it' experience)		
2-2.45pm	1000	The Common Weal: Collective Action and Collaborations across and beyond Scotland	Assoc Prof Louise Drumm (Edinburgh Napier University)	Keynote 3 Dr Hazel Farrell (SETU & GenAI:N3) Session Chair
2.45-3.30pm		EXPERT PANEL	Ken McCarthy (SETU), Panel Session Chair	
2.45-3.30pm	1000	EXPERT PANEL Discussion Session	Future Ready Universities	Expert Panel Discussion Session
2.45-3.30pm	1000	SESSION 4 Expert Panel Discussion	Prof Jim O Mahoney (MTU)	
2.45-3.30pm	1000		Dr Hazel Farrell (SETU & GenAI:N3)	
2.45-3.30pm	1000		Dr Louise Drumm (Edinburgh Napier University)	
2.45-3.30pm	1000		Dr Mark Kelly (ATU ESD Academy & National Forum ESD Policy Adviser)	
2.45-3.30pm	1000		Student Champion (ATU)	
2.45-3.30pm	1000			Prof. Frances Lucy (EU GREEN) (ATU)

TIME	ROOM	SESSION TITLE	PRESENTER	THEME
3.30 -3.45PM	Café Foyer	BREAK		
3.45 - 4.40pm		GASTA SESSION	Dr Tom Farrelly (MTU), Gasta Chair	
3.45 - 4.40pm	1000	Our VLE in Numbers	Dr Cormac Quigley (ATU)	Transformative Education in learning and teaching
3.45 - 4.40pm	1000	Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a Tool for Participatory Learning in the Classroom	Tiernan FitzLarkin (Ulster University)	GenAI and navigating its role in teaching and learning
3.45 - 4.40pm	1000	From Consultation to Co-Creation: A UDL-Framed Showcase of Age-Friendly Innovation	Margaret McLoone (ATU)	Immersive Learning: Innovative Pedagogies
3.45 - 4.40pm	1000	Automating comments, eroding relationships? The practice and ethics of GenAI feedback.	Dr Perry Share (ATU) Dr John Pender (ATU)	Ethical Use of AI
3.45 - 4.40pm	1000	Exploring the Potential of Virtual Reality in Accounting Education	Dr Geraldine Gorman (ATU)	Immersive Learning: Innovative Pedagogies
3.45 - 4.40pm	1000	The Presence Paradox: Rethinking Assessment Validity in XR Learning	Dr Diarmuid Ó Spealáin (MTU)	

TIME	ROOM	SESSION TITLE	PRESENTER	THEME
3.45 - 4.40pm	1000	Backpack Unpack	David Chernick (ATU)	
3.45 - 4.40pm	1000	The sustainable development goals through the lens of a Haiku.	Dr John Scahill (ATU)	
4.40PM - CONFERENCE CLOSING - Dr Billy Bennett, Registrar and Chief Academic Officer				

Check out the full programme and conference outputs at [DigitalEd.ie](https://www.digital-ed.ie)