Excellence in Teaching – The Future of Digital Learning

Conference on 6 and 7 April 2022 in Mainz, Germany
Venue: Roter Saal, Mainz School of Music, Johannes Gutenberg University

The conference "Excellence in Teaching - The Future of Digital Learning" aims to bring together experts in digital teaching from Scotland and Germany to discuss the future of virtual learning and teaching formats. It will tackle the question, what is the future of digital teaching after the pandemic? The conference will also provide a forum for networking and for the exchange of best practice examples for the productive integration of innovative digital teaching methods. In addition, the conference will address the necessary conditions for digital teaching to continue to thrive, from new infrastructure to tailored funding initiatives. To strengthen the bilateral ties between the teaching communities and initiate a productive discussion about the future of digital learning the conference will bring together policy makers and teaching experts from Scotland and Germany to identify and discuss the changing needs for successful university teaching. The central topics of the conference will be:

➢ *The evolution of digital learning: How will teaching environments change in the post-pandemic university?*
➢ *Student voice in digital teaching and learning: Balancing evolution of digital learning with learner needs and outcomes*
➢ *Embedding digital learning strategy: institutional case studies*
➢ *State of the German and Scottish discussions on digital Learning and Teaching*
➢ *Integrating digital learning and teaching in existing practices and systems, and the language of digital learning and teaching*
➢ *Role of politics in digital learning*
➢ *Opportunities for European cooperation: Digital teaching and the formation of new learning communities*
➢ *Sharing best practices – practicalities, open resources, network of learning technologists (skills shortage and career development)*
➢ *Technical dimensions and digital learning environment*

The conference will take place in person to allow for networking and discussion, but those unable to attend can join online:

Block I, Wednesday, April 6th, 1100 – 1300 CEST (1000 – 1200 GMT)

Block II, Wednesday, April 6th, 1400 – 1800 CEST (1300 – 1700 GMT)

Block III, Thursday, April 7th, 0900 – 12:45 CEST (0800 – 1145 GMT)

Excellence in Teaching – The Future of Digital Learning

Hochschule für Musik Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz Roter Saal Jakob-Welder-Weg 28, 55128 Mainz

During the event, pictures and sound recordings will be made. Each participant can object to the production and use of images and sound recordings concerning him or her in advance at the event management or on site.

Wednesday, April 6 2022

10:00 registration and welcome coffee (9:00 GMT)

BLOCK I: 11:00 – 12:00 conference opening and welcome (10:00 – 11:00 GMT)
Welcome addresses:
→ Prof. Georg Krausch, President, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU) and Chair of German U15 e.V.
→ Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science of Scotland
→ Clemens Hoch MdL, Minister for Science and Health, Rhineland-Palatinate
→ Dr. Jens Brandenburg MdB, parliamentary secretary of state, German Ministry for Education and Research

12:00 – 13:00 panel discussion (11:00 – 12:00 GMT)
From infrastructure to legal frameworks: The role of policy making in digital learning
→ Ministerialdirigent Peter Greisler, head of the Higher Education Institutions Section at the German Ministry for Education and Research
→ Prof. Stephan Jolie, vice-president for learning and teaching, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz
→ Prof. Brad Mackay, Vice-Principal (International Strategy and External Relations) and Senior Vice-Principal University of St Andrews, and Vice-Convener for Universities Scotland's International Committee
→ Dr. Cornelia Raue, Executive Director, Stiftung Innovation in der Hochschullehre
Chair: Dr. Jan Wöpking, Managing Director, German U15

13:00 – 14:00 lunch break (12:00 – 13:00 GMT)

BLOCK II: 14:00 – 15:00 key note (13:00 – 14:00 GMT)
The evolution of digital learning: How will teaching environments change in the post-pandemic university?
→ Dr. Alexandra Mihai, Maastricht University/Yale Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning

15:00 – 16:00 panel I (14:00 – 15:00 GMT)
Embedding digital learning strategy: Institutional case studies from Scotland and Germany
→ Prof. Jonathan Powles, Vice-Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning, Teaching and Students, University of the West of Scotland
→ Oliver Janoschka, Managing Director Hochschulforum Digitalisierung (HFD)
→ Dr. Kathleen Savage & Dr. Sean Morrissey BOLD (Blended and Online Learning Design) – a Case Study from the University of Strathclyde

16:00 – 16:30 coffee break (15:00 – 15:30 GMT)

16:30 – 18:00 panel II (16:30 – 18:00 GMT)
Respecting the resistance: Integrating digital learning and teaching in existing practices and systems
→ Dr. Louise Drumm, Associate Professor (Department of Learning and Teaching Enhancement), Edinburgh Napier University
→ Dr. Tim Fawns, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Education, The University of Edinburgh
→ Dr. Julia Eberle, Senior Research Scientist, Ruhr-Universität Bochum
→ Dr. Fiona Work, Teaching Excellence Fellow and Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (HEA) at Robert Gordon University

18:30 conference dinner (17:30 GMT)

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Thursday, April 7 2022

8:30 welcome coffee (7:30 GMT)

BLOCK III: 9:00 – 09:45 student discussion (08:00 – 08:45 GMT)
Student voice in digital teaching and learning: Balancing the evolution of digital learning with learner needs and outcomes
→ Discussion chaired by PD Dr. Sigrid Rieuwerts, JGU Scotland HUB, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz
→ Jasmine Millington, Edinburgh Napier University
→ Sara Stecca, Edinburgh Napier University
→ Lilla Bozar, Edinburgh Napier University
→ Leonie Ackermann, freier zusammenschluss von student*innenschaften (fzs) e.V.

09:45 – 10:45 panel III (08:45 – 09:45 GMT)
Where next for digital learning? New frontiers in technology and implementation
→ Dr. Mark Zarb, Teaching Excellence Fellow, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen
→ Prof. Niels Pinkwart, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
→ Prof. Tim Drysdale, Chair in Technology Enhanced Science Education, The University of Edinburgh

10:45 – 11:00 coffee break (09:45 – 10:00 GMT)

11:00 – 12:30 working groups (10:00 – 11:30 GMT)
Crossing borders: Sharing best practices
Group I: Practicalities, pedagogical approach: access and sustainability
→ "Initial findings from a project on design of simulated / virtual practice learning opportunities for nurses and allied health professions", Dr. Fiona Work, Isla Fairley, Claire Morphy, Rahul Oza, School of Nursing & Midwifery, Robert Gordon University
→ "New Building, New Philosophy: Academic Developers, Learning Developers and Digital Learning", Dr. Vicki Dale, Mx Nic Kipar, Dr. Scott Ramsay, Dr. Andrew Struan, University of Glasgow

Group II: Technical dimensions and digital learning environment
→ Dr. Kirsty Kiezebrink, Dean for Educational Innovation, Institute of Applied Health Sciences Education Lead, University of Aberdeen
→ Marko Glaubitz, Deputy head of E-Learning, University of Freiburg

Group III: Career development and skills shortage
→ Dr. Gosia Mitka, Associate Dean, Education (Arts and Divinity) and
Dr. Gerald Prescot, Associate Dean, Education (Science), University of St Andrews

Chair: Marko Glaubitz, Deputy head of E-Learning, University of Freiburg

12:30 –12:45 closing remarks (11:30 – 11:45 GMT)
→ Prof. Stephan Jolie, Vice-President for learning and teaching, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz

12:45 (11:45 GMT)
End of conference