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Learning and Teaching Office

Together, achieving excellence in learning and teaching



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
A U S T R A L I A

Fremantle

Broome

Sydney

Bulletin - June 2019

The mission of the LTO is to support the academic community in its quest to sustain and enhance high quality teaching across the University. In this bulletin we outline a number of ways we are working towards assisting academics to take a scholarly approach to developing their learning and teaching knowledge.

2019 Educator Scholar Conference: Assessment in Times of Change



'Assessment in Times of Change'

Hosted by the Learning and Teaching Office, the Educator Scholar Conference brings together Notre Dame academic colleagues. Joining us this year as both the keynote speaker and workshop facilitator is Associate [Professor Phillip Dawson](#) from Deakin University and the Centre for Research in Assessment and Digital Learning. As a leader in the field of assessment research Phillip's interests are in assessment design, academic integrity and feedback.

The conference will take place on Notre Dame's Fremantle and Sydney campuses.

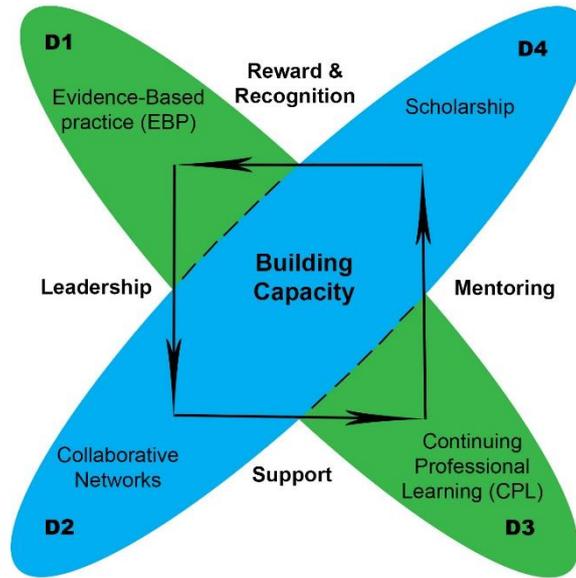
- Sydney campus: **Tuesday, 1 October 2019**
- Fremantle campus: **Thursday, 3 October 2019**

Abstracts for presentations are due soon. Visit the LTO's [Educator Scholar Conference webpage](#) for resources on how to write an abstract as well the abstract conference template. Please email your abstracts to lto@nd.edu.au by **COB 30 August, 2019**.

Awards and DVCA Prize

To recognise the work of Notre Dame academics, five awards are connected to each conference run in Sydney and Fremantle. Visit the [Educator Scholars Conference Awards webpage](#) to see which category your work fits.

There is one **DVCA prize** for the paper that makes the most significant contribution to enhancing student learning. This prize promotes the wide scholarly dissemination of innovative learning and teaching at the University. Visit LTO's [Educator Scholar Conference webpage](#) for information on the awards and DVCA prize.



Awards and Grants

Seed Grants for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Project

The LTO has launched the seed grants for SoTL projects. These grants provide funding (\$3000-\$4000) and support for educator scholars to conduct small University-based SoTL projects. The grants are open to all teaching staff, and we invite applications for projects that have a strong focus on improvements and innovation in the learning and teaching space. Successful applicants will need to complete their project by December 2020 and be prepared to share their findings with the University community.

If you haven't been able to attend a face-to-face session, a webinar regarding the application process will be made available shortly on the LTO's [Seed and grants webpage](#).

Applicants must use the [grant application template](#) which is available from the LTO's [Seed and grants webpage](#). Please email your application to lto@nd.edu.au by **5pm (AWST) on 29 July, 2019**.

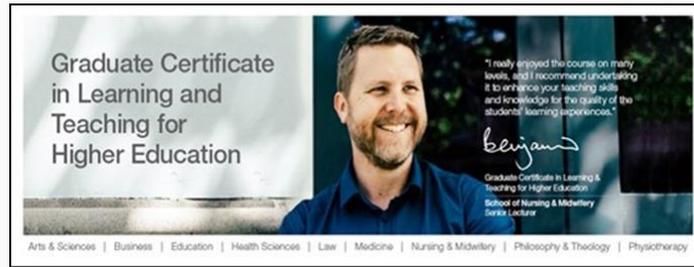


Peer Review

The LTO would like to offer our deepest thanks to the fantastic group of teaching champions who took part in the Peer Review Pilot Project and participated in recent focus groups where they shared their thoughts and experiences. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us to refine the Face to Face Teaching Peer Review Tool and develop a framework for integrating a peer review process into the University's learning and teaching practices.

It is timely that this work coincides with publication of the latest federal [report](#) by the Department of Education & Training. Written by [Emeritus Professor Denise Chalmers](#), who is an Adjunct Professor with the LTO, the report highlights the role of peer review in upholding the commitment of tertiary institutions to recognise and reward quality teaching. It also re-emphasises the role of teaching as the key pillar of higher education and stresses the need to reward quality teaching in order to ensure quality student learning experience.

The link to the full report is available on the LTO Twitter [@LTONotreDameAUS](#).



Graduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching for Higher Education (GCLTHE)

The GCLTHE is for those interested in developing their learning and teaching practices to meet the demands of the 21st century higher education environment. Visit the LTO's [Programs webpage](#) and view testimonials from Notre Dame staff who have completed the qualification.

There are two fully online courses in Semester 2:

- **EDUC5116 Designing Curriculum for Effective Learning**
- **EDUC5118 Action Research**

The GCLTHE is open to all qualified individuals, including non-Notre Dame staff, so please pass this information on to anyone who has an interest in undertaking qualifications in this area.

For further details including course descriptions, and directions regarding the admissions process see the LTO's [Programs webpage](#).



Technology Enhanced Learning

Save time and enhance your pedagogical approach with Blackboard Groups tool

- Will you be teaching a large class with multiple tutorial groups?
- Are you planning to have any group work in your course?

If the answer is yes, you will definitely benefit from using the 'group tool' in Blackboard.

Apart from saving you time, the group tool is pedagogically effective as it promotes student-centric strategies and allows your students to collaborate better and communicate with each other.

If your course has group work, your students may find it beneficial to have their own private group space. It can be used to house a number of useful tools, such as a private discussion board, file exchange, and a private-to-the-group 'Collaborate Ultra' session allowing them to record their group meetings.

Having 'assessment groups' will also allow you to mark the work as a group. In practical terms, it means that only one person will submit on behalf of the group, and once you marked the group assessment, your feedback and mark will be automatically copied for each member of the group.

Best of all, you can get your students to enrol themselves, both to their tutorial and/or assessment groups. All you need to do is set up groups with sign-up lists in your course on Blackboard.

You will find both the video on how to set up this function and a guide on self-enrolling in a group for your students in our Blackboard, Turnitin and Beyond (TEL) Resource at the LTO's [Continuing Professional Learning webpage](#).

Using groups in Blackboard will allow you to create 'smart views' in the 'grade centre', so that each tutorial group has its own grade centre area. Having smart views is especially important if you have multiple markers and want to save them the trouble of scrolling through the whole class list trying to pick out their students.

Please bookmark helpful pages and let Inna or Alison, our Learning Technologies Developers, know if what you are after is not there.





Academic Integrity

Tackling contract cheating

You may be interested to know that the Australian Government has released an exposure draft of legislation that will make it an offence to provide or advertise academic cheating services (contract cheating) in higher education.

The draft legislation is aimed at those who provide cheating services and not at students. Students who cheat will continue to be subject to own academic integrity policies, processes and penalties. A [summary overview](#) of the draft Bill outlines the key features of the proposed legislation.

The Learning and Teaching Committee has worked with the LTO to provide a response to the draft bill and will keep you informed as information comes to hand, or you can visit the [Department of Education's website](#).



Stay connected with the LTO!

The LTO is on Twitter!

Twitter allows us to follow institutions and academics doing great work in learning and teaching around the world. Our academic developers choose what they feel is most relevant for us at Notre Dame and then share it with you. We will also tweet learning and teaching eResources (e.g. how to spot contract cheating); and tips for getting the most from Blackboard. We also have a number of recognised Twitter followers such as:

- Professor James Arvanitakis - Western Sydney University
- Assoc. Professor Tracey Bretag - University of South Australia
- Assoc. Professor Ann Rogerson - University of Wollongong

Here's a look at some of the topics of our recent tweets:

- Peer review of teaching in higher education is starting to take a standardised shape
- 'When does proofreading become plagiarism?'
- 'University teachers need teaching qualifications'
- Academic and Professional Skills Workshops (APSW)
- Trial and Error: Refining online courses with constant feedback
- LTO's Continuing Professional Learning Calendar 2019

If you are involved in a learning and teaching project that deserves wider publicity, or you have come across some interesting work, and/or an academic let us know [@LTONotreDameAUS](https://twitter.com/LTONotreDameAUS).

If you have no idea about Twitter, don't feel embarrassed ... simply drop by the LTO on campus for a quick lesson. It really is only a quick lesson!



Continuing Professional Learning Opportunities

See the LTO's [News and events webpage](#) for events, webinars, newsletters, and continuing professional learning opportunities from various groups such as ACEN, ASCILITE, and Blackboard.

If you can't see it here, but would like some support or just want to give us feedback on our monthly bulletin, please let us know

[Feedback](#)



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Our email address is:
lto@nd.edu.au.
