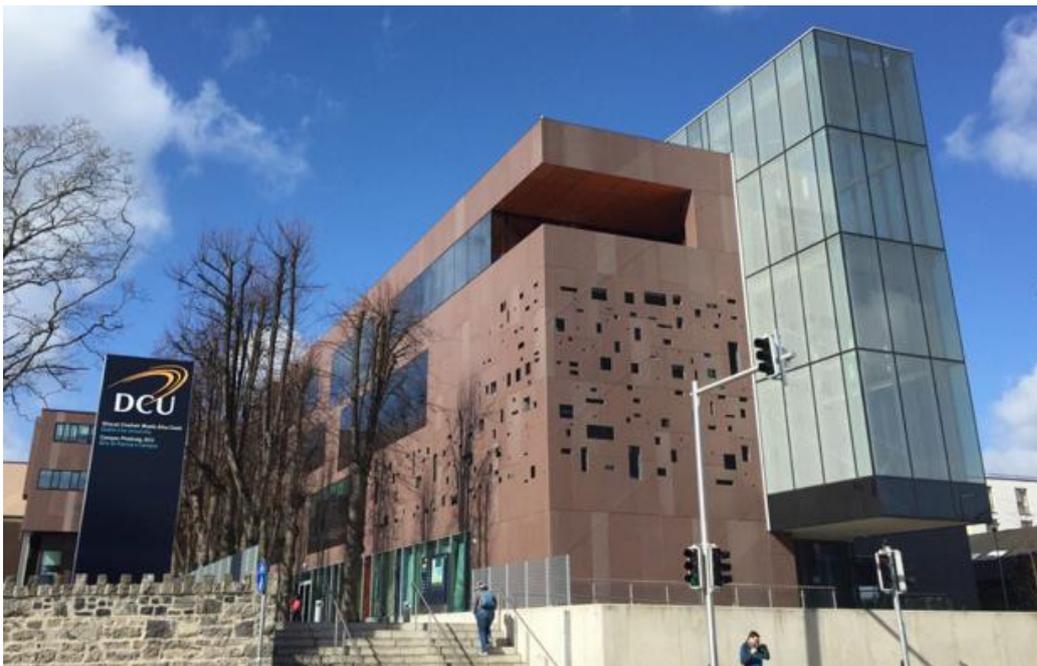




## Good Craic Awaits

Dublin is a vibrant and welcoming city, known for the friendliness of its people and famous for its [craic](#) (pronounced ‘crack’). The term ‘craic’ is a unique mix of repartee, humour, intelligence, and acerbic insight that has attracted writers, intellectuals, and visitors to Dublin for centuries. In less than three weeks delegates arriving in Ireland from over 50 countries will be able to experience first-hand the craic of Dublin and we hope the ICDE World Conference. As previously mentioned Dublin will still be buzzing from the previous week’s celebration of the world famous Bram Stoker Festival, Halloween and the start of Samhain.

There is sure to be good craic right from Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, as around 200 participants will join together on DCU’s [St Patrick’s campus](#) for a range of pre-conference activities. But that’s only the beginning of the action as our unique “Gasta” style lightning talks starting on Monday afternoon, coupled with Tuesday’s walking tours ending with a bit of pedagogy in the pub, should make for lively conversations.



Whilst there is a serious side to the conference, with some challenging invited speakers, lots of busy and bustling breakout presentations across 4-days and 10 parallel tracks, along with a mix of 15 interactive symposia, action labs and SWOT fora, we also hope that you have your ticket to the [Gala Dinner](#). Due to demand and a little reorganisation we have managed to increase seating capacity by another 30 guests but we anticipate our historic venue will be completely full by the time of the conference. The Gala Dinner promises to be a grand event, where we will present a number of prestigious ICDE Awards as well as later in the evening encourage you to get out of your seats to join our céilí dancers. We respectfully ask all guests to wear something green and there will be special green prizes for those entering into the spirit of the occasion.



And the craic doesn't stop at the dinner as the final day of the ICDE World Conference starts with a future-focussed keynote by Professor [George Siemens](#). This is one talk not to miss! George will explore some of the big questions facing us in the future and set the scene for the "[Great Dublin Debate](#)". Our debate should prove to be a real highlight of the conference as you can expect two teams to draw on their considerable experience, intellect and no doubt spontaneous wit for a lively discussion presenting different futures for online education.

Our local team can't wait to welcome you to Dublin as we have a number of other creative twists and surprises to share when you arrive. If you haven't yet registered for the ICDE World Conference, then please don't delay any longer, as we really want you to join us in Dublin to help shape the future.



## What's new

We have much to report but so little time! Since the previous newsletter the conference team has been working tirelessly to ensure everything is ready for your arrival in Dublin.

### *Conference Programme*

Two iterations of the full preliminary conference programme have been shared with contributors over the past fortnight. Designing a programme to ensure coherence within and across each breakout session is never easy and we have also done our absolute best to accommodate over 100 requests for specific presentation days/times due to other commitments. Unfortunately last week we had to remove a number of presentations from the full programme where contributors had yet to register. The latest [full preliminary programme](#) is available on the conference website and we do not anticipate many changes from this version.

### *Conference app*

Also last week we designed the first version of the conference app that we will release before the event. If you're using a mobile device, then the full conference programme will be much easier to follow and interact with using our dedicated app. We expect the app will contain a number of useful tools and resources that should serve to enhance your conference experience. Also speaking of the app, if you intend to blog during the conference, either from Dublin or elsewhere, then please contact us so that we can add a link to your site and no doubt your insightful comments.



### *Session Chairs*

We have also started the task of assigning chairs to each session. There will be a chair for every breakout session at the ICDE World Conference to help introduce presenters, manage time, facilitate questions and generally ensure everything runs smoothly. As we have lots of breakout sessions over 4-days of the conference, we welcome additional offers from delegates to chair one of these sessions. All chairs will receive guidelines prior to the event and this is just another way that you can actively contribute to the World Conference and the ICDE community. Certificates of Appreciation will be issued to chairs after the conference.



### *Guiding Aspirations*

As mentioned in our last newsletter, the local organising team is very conscious that delegates converging on Dublin will be doing so at considerable expense. While the ICDE World Conference will be the outcome of hundreds if not thousands of hours of voluntary work taking the time to participate in a major international conference is not cheap. There is also an environmental impact that needs to be taken into consideration. Apart from the impact of increased international travel did you know that according to [Meetgreen](#) a typical conference participant discards almost 3kg of waste per day, and over 1kg of this goes directly to landfill? Hospitality can play a key role in making events more environmentally friendly.

Accordingly, this year's ICDE World Conference is based around three design features to ensure that our hospitality is more sustainable. Firstly, we have selected a venue that sources local produce. Secondly, we have been particularly conscious in our material choices. Thirdly, we have a waste management plan that allows us under local health regulations to recycle and share leftover meals with some of Dublin's less fortunate residents. Notably, the Convention Centre Dublin (CCD) has a recycling rate consistently over 90% and was the world's first carbon-neutral constructed convention venue.



It follows that the design of this year's ICDE World Conference has been anchored in our commitment to sustainability along with a number of other guiding values and aspirations which you can read more about on the [conference website](#). We have called these Guiding Aspirations, as we do not see our explicit values and commitments in designing the conference as end points but rather something on an ever-changing continuum, which is open to redefinition and co-construction as we deepen our understandings.

### *Conference Plus*

Not only are our preparations for the ICDE World Conference continuing at a greater pace but we also being kept busy arranging a number of linked and embedded events. For example, if you're staying on for lunch after the Closing Ceremony on Thursday

7<sup>th</sup> November, then you might like to attend the formal launch of the IUA-led [Enhancing Digital Teaching and Learning project](#) starting at 2:30pm in the CCD. The launch will feature a number of invited speakers and give you a chance to see how Irish universities are responding in a co-ordinated way to the educational challenges and opportunities presented by new digital technologies. While this is a free event please [register here](#) for catering purposes.



Also there are still places available for our special post-conference event, [Innovations in Training \(IIT\) Dublin](#), which also begins in the CCD on Thursday afternoon. We have been overwhelmed by the number of delegates who would like to hear more about the work that Dublin City University (DCU) is doing in the area of online education and we plan to share more information in the next fortnight about a campus tour that will be available on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November.



TRAINING MAGAZINE'S  
**Innovations**  
in Training  
7-9 November 2019 · Dublin, Ireland

**Join Us for a Dublin Field Trip  
for Learning & Development Professionals**

**Co-Located with the World Conference on Online Learning**

The image is a promotional graphic for 'Innovations in Training'. On the left is an aerial photograph of a lush green landscape with a river and fields. To the right of the photo, the text reads: 'TRAINING MAGAZINE'S', 'Innovations in Training' (with 'Innovations' in red and 'in Training' in black), and '7-9 November 2019 · Dublin, Ireland'. Below this, it says 'Join Us for a Dublin Field Trip for Learning & Development Professionals'. At the bottom, a red banner contains the text 'Co-Located with the World Conference on Online Learning'.

And if you're staying on in Dublin over the weekend, then on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November there is an opportunity to participate in a free special half-day workshop organised

by [Eportfolio Ireland](#) at DCU's St. Patricks Campus. Once again to assist with planning and catering arrangements please [register in advance](#) for this event.

## Speaker Spotlight



In this we newsletter we provide a brief profile of our plenary speaker Dr [Ethel Agnes Pascua-Valenzuela](#). Ethel is presently the Director of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Secretariat (SEAMEO Secretariat). She took office on 1st April 2019 as the 18th Director of SEAMEO, marking 2 firsts, the first Female SEAMEO Secretariat Director and the first Filipina to lead a regional organization in education, culture and science.

At SEAMEO Secretariat where she served from July 2015 to February 2019 as the first woman Deputy Director for Programme and Development, she worked and advocated for region-wide SEAMEO programmes with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for SEAMEO College, with UNICEF-EAPRO for the first region-wide grade 5 assessment called Southeast Asia's Primary Learning Metrics (SEA PLM), and with UNESCO for inclusive and quality education, teacher professional development, open educational resources, massive open and online courses, education for sustainable development and global citizenship.

Dr Valenzuela served SEAMEO INNOETCH as Head/Senior Specialist of SEAMEO INNOTECH from 2006 to 2015, at the Philippine government as Education Commissioner of UNESCO National Commission from 2000 to 2010, Director IV at the Commission on Higher Education from 2000 to 2006, Chief Education Programme Specialist at CHED International Affairs Services from 1995 to 2000, and a graduate school Professorial lecturer at the University of the Philippines College of Education Diliman campus.



Southeast Asian  
Ministers of Education  
Organization

Dr Valenzuela's expertise is on educational policy and research in the areas of internationalization of education, transnational and distance education as well as teacher education. She has published international and local articles, journals, technical reports and guidelines for some SEAMEO and other international organizations such as UNESCO,

UNICEF, CHED and DepED. Among her well-noted work were: The K to 12 Regional Comparison in Asia, K to 12 Toolkit, Philippine Higher Education Guide (CHED), Quality Assurance, Mutual Recognition in Higher Education (UNESCO Paris), Toolkit for the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications (UNESCO BKK), Toolkit for National Information Centers (UNESCO Bangkok), Education for Sustainable Development Toolkit, Internationalization of Philippine Higher Education (UNESCO Natcom) to name a few. She also published Philippine Education in the International Encyclopaedia of Education under Elsevier London.

Dr Valenzuela holds a Doctor of Education in Educational Management, Masters of Arts in Science Education and Bachelors Degree in Secondary Education.

## Why join us in Dublin

This is our sixth edition of the conference fortnightly newsletter and in each issue we have tried to share the many and varied reasons why you should join us in Dublin for this year's ICDE World Conference.

In the first newsletter, Professor [Mark Brown](#), Conference Chair, reported how more than ever online learning has become an important part of the global higher education ecosystem. In 2015 the global value of online learning reached almost €100 billion and this is predicted to be around €300 billion in the next 5-years ([McCue, 2019](#)). The global market for MOOCs alone, which was valued at €3.5 billion in 2018, is predicted to reach around €20 billion by 2023 ([MOOC Market, 2019](#)). In 2018, over 100 million people worldwide registered for a free online course through one of the major MOOC platforms and this figure is closer to 130 million when local platforms from India and China are taken into account ([ClassCentral, 2019](#)).



Professor [Mairéad Nic Giollamhichil](#), a member of the local DCU team and co-Moderator for this year's event added to the mix that the growing demand for online lifelong learning

is partly driven by an increasingly aging global population. Those aged 65+ will increase by 35% by 2025, thus constituting 10% of the total global population: China and India will have the largest population in this age segment, though the highest growth is predicted to come from the Middle East.

Of course, online learning is not new as there is a long tradition of open and distance education. Building on this history the ICDE World Conference in Dublin provides a unique opportunity for educational leaders, policy-makers, researchers and experienced practitioners from both traditional institutions and new and emerging providers to meet, share their expertise and engage in productive debates concerning the challenges and opportunities facing us now and in the future. The Dublin conference takes place at a time when there is increasing recognition that new models of online learning must be part of the solution if we are to achieve the agenda of promoting “education for all”. The key message from their contributions to previous newsletter is that if you want to shape the future of online education, then Dublin is the place to be in November.

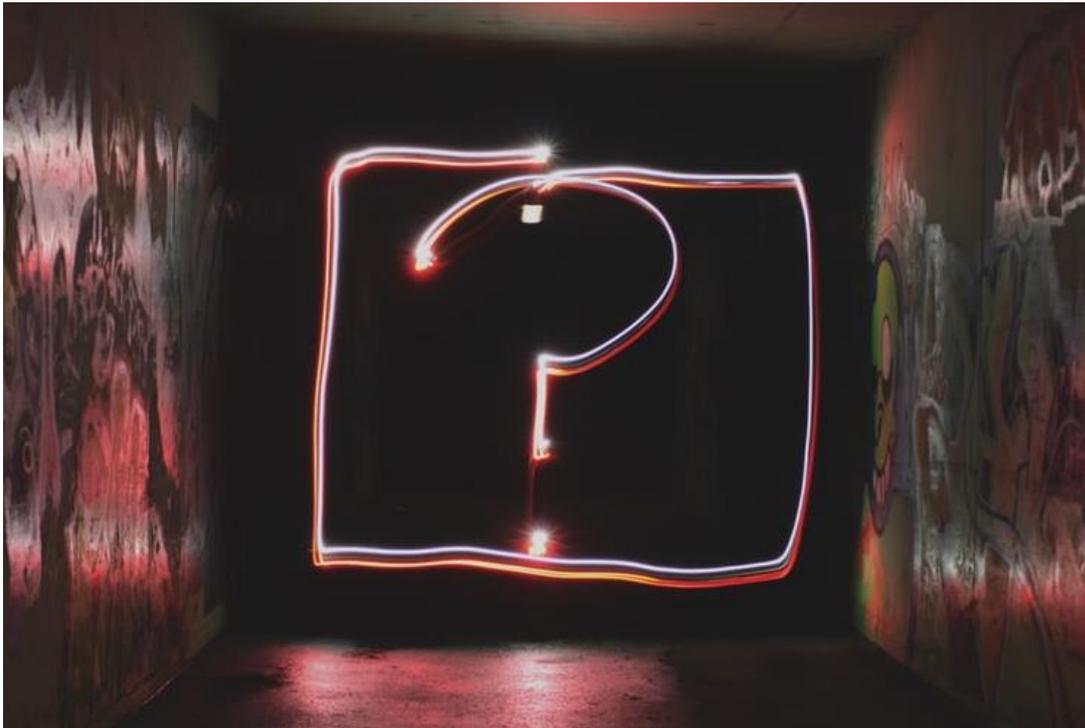


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In our third newsletter we drew on Paulo Freire to remind us “Education [by itself] does not change the world. Education changes people. People change the world”. Therefore we need as many people as possible in Dublin to ensure that we address the complex and challenging issues facing us in the future. Set against the backdrop of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGS) the ICDE World Conference aims to harness the collective experience of participants to help us envision better futures for all and build a platform for advancing the mission of transforming lives and societies.

[Dr Morten Flate Paulsen](#), Acting Secretary General of ICDE, then shared his personal experience of how the ICDE World Conference can open up a world of opportunities. Reflecting back he reported how attending his first the ICDE World Conference was a defining moment for his career in open and distance education. Morten encouraged all aspiring colleagues and experienced educators to come to our November conference to introduce themselves to the ICDE community and meet us face-to-face (and virtually) to

shape the future.



In the last newsletter, [Professor Belinda Tynan](#), ICDE President shared her thoughts on why you should join us in Dublin. She reported how our world has become increasingly complicated and chaotic with geo-politics playing out before our very eyes. It takes a unique education leader to be able to negotiate the opportunities that straddle the old and new ways of thinking about what success looks like in our century. More specifically, Belinda alerted readers to a strong equity agenda underpinning the conference and our [big questions](#) around what *transforms lives and societies*. Belinda also noted the networking opportunities that will be incredibly valuable to all who attend as you engage in cross-global conversations about the issues that matter in online education.

In sum, the 2019 ICDE World Conference is unique for the way it will bring together delegates from both developed and developing countries to discuss and seek ways of harnessing the potential of new open, online and digital technologies to promote educational change and societal transformation for better futures. If you haven't yet registered for the conference, then we hope that you will still make the decision to join us in Dublin.

## Taste of Ireland

If you haven't by now heard about Samhain (pronounced 'sow-in'), a Celtic tradition dating back thousands of years, then you haven't been reading our previous newsletters. A celebration of Samhain will feature right from the start of the Opening Ceremony and throughout the conference as we explore the duality of online education set against our wider theme and agenda of "[transforming lives and societies](#)".

The changing of seasons from light to dark is just one of several unique Irish cultural experiences that we have woven throughout this year's ICDE World Conference. Last time we mentioned how we have commissioned an Irish writer to craft a unique poem for the event that should also help to frame the development of the Dublin Declaration arising from the conference. Of course, when you come to Ireland you also expect to experience céilí dancing and traditional Irish music, and hopefully you won't be disappointed on this front. Another special of this year's conference is our range of lunchtime activities where you can learn more about Irish history and culture from leading historians, nationally recognised artists and performers and local volunteers. We will share more about these lunch break activities in our next newsletter. By the end of the ICDE World Conference we hope that delegates will leave Dublin with a much better appreciation of Celtic and Irish culture, and we hope the importance of valuing and respecting indigenous heritage as we look for different ways of thinking to address many of world's grand challenges.



In the meantime, we would like to introduce you to “Cara” our official ICDE World Conference emoji. For those of you not familiar with the term “emoji” this refers to an ideogram or smiley that can be used in electronic messages. The term “Cara” translates in the Irish language to “friend” and you can expect to see a lot more of this friendly image leading up to conference. There is even a rumour that Cara will be present during the conference in a life-size form.

## Update for Presenters

As already mentioned all contributors and presenters should have received notification emails last week with the latest update of the specific day/time of your presentation(s). We do not anticipate there will be many further changes to the full conference programme but you can expect to receive a further notification of the final allocation of breakout sessions before you depart for Dublin.

If your paper was removed from the programme as you had yet to formally register for the conference and you still wish to present, then you need to urgently contact us. At this late stage there is little room to accommodate late requests for specific presentation days/times as any change to the programme is likely to affect other contributors.



The next major task for contributors is to make sure that you familiarise yourself with the [Presentation Guidelines](#) for your paper type well before you start preparing any accompanying slide-deck. If you are relatively new to presenting at a major international conference then may also benefit from viewing a recording of our [webinar for presenters](#) offering a number of helpful suggestions. Authors of Digital Posters, Lightning Talks and Virtual Papers all need to have their presentation slides submitted in the correct format **before** the conference following the respective guidelines. Please note that if you do not submit your slide-deck by the stated date, then we cannot guarantee that we will be able to make available your slides during your presentation time. Concise and Full Paper contributors are able to upload their presentation files at the Speakers Preview Room on arrival at the CCD or by no later than the morning of your talk.



As mentioned in the previous newsletter we have been proof-editing all paper submissions and you may notice that your title has been updated to correctly appear in title case. Also some abstracts may have undergone minor revisions to enhance the quality of written English and the readability. All Full Papers have also been subject to a final review process, which has taken a little longer than we originally anticipated ensuring they meet the requirements to be included in the final conference proceedings. While all abstracts and full papers will be available through the conference app some authors may be asked to make further revisions to their work before a final decision is made to publish your full paper in the formal proceeding after the conference. Lastly, as part of final paper review process the conference International Review Panel has now completed the selection of a short-list of papers for best paper awards. We will be contacting short-listed authors in the next week or so and the presentation of these awards will take place at the reception event on Tuesday evening. A number of additional special awards along with the Best Digital Poster Award where delegates can contribute to the selection through the conference app will be presented during the Closing Ceremony.

## **Sponsor Feature**

Some of you may have seen an interesting debate taking place over the past week on Twitter about the role and increasing influence of commercial sponsors at major conferences. This is an issue you might like to discuss at the ICDE World Conference but in the meantime the real costs of hosting such a major international event would pose serious risks if we did not have dozens of local volunteers contributing many hours of hidden work to organising the event. The local team would also be remiss if we did not acknowledge the invaluable support of our sponsors. The reality is that the ICDE World Conference on Online Learning would be considerably more challenging to host without their support, although we would like to stress that at no point has the Programme

Committee felt the contribution of sponsors has reduced the quality or integrity of the programme.



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

Therefore in this edition of the conference newsletter we would like to profile some of our Bronze sponsors. In a previous newsletter we mentioned the support of the Irish [National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education](#), a body responsible for leading and advising on the enhancement of teaching and learning. We are delighted that the Director, Dr Terry Maguire will join a panel discussion on the importance and strength of diversity in shaping the future of higher education.



**Record, Share, Learn**

Another local sponsor is [Unicam](#) providing a low cost solution to educational institutions for video recording and live streaming. They have particular expertise in terms of integrating video clips within Moodle and other learning management systems. You can get first-hand experience of Unicam at their exhibition booth where we will be using their services throughout the conference to record interviews with speakers and conference delegates. If you would like to share your reflections on the conference then make sure you talk with the team from Unicam.

**Studiosity**  
Study help, anywhere

[Studiosity](#) is another valued bronze sponsor. They offer a number of online services designed to support student success, including Connect Live, which provides 24/7 on-demand study support and personalised help from one of their subject specialists. Another important online service offers students constructive academic writing feedback in less than 24 hours. This service recognises that feedback is crucial to student success and you will have an opportunity during the conference to hear from people and institutions already using this service to support the writing skills of both on-campus and off-campus learners. We encourage you to ask for a demonstration of these online tools and services

from members of the Studiosity team.

# InStride™

[View Sponsor Website](#)

## Register for WCOL 2019



The clock is ticking if you haven't yet decided to join us in Dublin for the ICDE World Conference. There is still time to register but we will be closing registrations shortly and all payments must be made and successfully processed before you arrive at the conference.

[Register Today!](#)

## Dublin Travel Tips

Our travel trips for Dublin remain largely the same as the previous newsletter but you need to know that **cash** is needed if you wish to pay for a taxi. Cards are not accepted.

However, you have several public transportation options to get to the city centre from Dublin Airport. The most affordable option is by bus. All buses leave within an easy walking distance of the two main terminals and the most popular bus is [Airlink 747 or 757](#) which makes multiple stops in the city centre. Depending on the traffic the journey will take about 30-minutes, with a one-way ticket costing you €7:00. Both bus routes stop right outside the [Convention Centre Dublin](#) (CCD) on the banks of the River Liffey.



The good news is that the centre of Dublin is quite compact and easy to navigate on foot. This means that if you plan to stay in the city centre, which we recommend, you might not ever need to take public transportation. The central area is small enough that walking is usually the most efficient way to get around the city. The conference venue is about 10 to 15 minutes walk from the historic [Temple Bar district](#) and the two major shopping areas on either side of the River Liffey.

While Dublin is fairly condensed it still has an easy-to-use public transportation system. You can even grab a [hire bike](#) from one of the many stations, with the first 30-minutes of use free on every bike. Between walking, biking, the bus, LUAS, DART and train networks, there are so many ways to get around Dublin, that you'll actually be spoilt for choice. If you're planning on seeing some of the sights of Dublin then we highly recommend a hop-on-hop-off tourist bus. [Dublin buses](#) are double-decker style and like all traffic in Ireland drive on the left side of the road. This is an important point to remember when crossing the road and trying to decide which direction to take the bus. You can buy tickets directly on the bus but you can only do so using Euro coins. No cards are accepted and no change is given, so it is best to have the exact fare already counted out in coins in your hand, ready to drop into the machine next to the driver when you board.



However, if you are planning to take Dublin Bus or other Dublin public transportation extensively, including hire bikes, then it may be worth investing in the Leap Card. The reloadable travel card offers slightly lower fares on every journey and using one means that you'll never have any hassle of finding enough coins. For delegates planning to attend the [pre-conference events](#) on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at Dublin City University (DCU) a taxi should only take around 10-minutes from city centre. Depending on your hotel location, and weather, you can probably walk from the city centre to DCU's [St Patrick's campus](#) in around 30 minutes.

## Booking your accommodation



By now you should already have your accommodation booked. Many hotels include breakfast as part of your package and this why we will only serve tea and coffee on your arrival at the [Convention Centre Dublin](#) (CCD). If your hotel is only one or two kilometres from the CCD then subject to weather we recommend you walk the short distance to the conference venue, as morning traffic can be particularly slow in Dublin. The CCD is located in the [Docklands district](#) on the banks of the River Liffey and relatively close to the very heart of central business district, so there are multiple options for accommodation. We have listed a number of options on the [conference website](#) but you are spoilt for choice from budget accommodation through to upmarket hotels. A more extensive list of hotels, serviced apartments and bed and breakfast accommodation can be viewed on the [Dublin Convention Bureau](#) website. If you would like to find someone to share accommodation to help reduce your expenses, then we suggest that you post a message through one of the conference social media channels.

## Follow us

Please remember to follow us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Facebook](#) for further “bite sized” conference updates as we share just in time and just enough information about this year’s ICDE World Conference.



INTERNATIONAL  
COUNCIL FOR OPEN AND  
DISTANCE EDUCATION

ICDE World Conference Newsletter

16th October 2019



28<sup>th</sup> ICDE  
World Conference  
on Online Learning

3-7 November 2019  
Convention Centre Dublin, Ireland

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