



Blended Learning in Healthcare Education

Date: Wednesday 25th March 2015
Time: 1:10pm – 2:00pm
Venue: Houston Lecture Theatre, 123 St. Stephen's Green, RCSI
Presenter: Laura Widger, Head of Centre for Technology Enhanced Learning, Waterford Institute of Technology, Ireland
Convenor: Eric Clarke, Lecturer in Health Informatics, HPEC

"Blended/Hybrid Course is where the online course activity replaces at least 30 percent of required face-to-face meetings (lectures). When the technologies used for education and communication outside the classroom are used to supplant some of the classroom work, reducing the time actually spent in the classroom, the result is a blended or hybrid course."

Sloan Consortia, 2013

Blended Learning integrates traditional teaching strategies with the various affordances of technology-enhanced learning. It uses learning technology to not just supplement, but transform and improve the learning process.

This lunchtime session will explore 'Blended Learning' and question some of the challenges and opportunities in adopting a blended approach. Key concepts, trends, different models, and the role of the lecturer within a blended environment will be discussed within the context of healthcare education.



Laura Widger, CTEL, WIT

We are delighted to invite Laura Widger, Head of Centre for Technology Enhanced Learning, at Waterford Institute of Technology, as our guest speaker on this topic. Laura provides leadership in the ongoing development of Waterford IT's vision for TEL, including developing, implementing and evolving institute policy, guidance and recommendations in line with the strategic objectives of the Institute. She is coordinating a blended learning initiative for the MA in learning and teaching, and is advising on a number of research projects that entail considerable blended learning strategies for the EU (TEL Slovenia), National Forum for the Enhancement for Teaching & Learning and Waterford IT. This work, combined with her role as deputy chair of the Irish Learning Technology Association, gives her an insight into national and European trends and challenges in deploying Blended Learning in higher education.

Blended education. Hybrid learning. Flipping the classroom. Whatever one chooses to call it, this method of learning—which combines classroom and online education—is going places and making headlines along the way.

The HPEC "Show & TEL" series are lunchtime sessions that look at current and emerging themes in the learning technology landscape and aims to highlight some of the opportunities available to Faculty for supporting the student experience at RCSI. | www.rcsi.ie/hpec



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