University of Aberdeen
12th Annual Academic Development Symposium, Thursday 29 April 2021
Best of Blends: Building Resilient Learning Communities During Our University's Covid-19 Response

Programme

Time	Session (all delivered via MS Teams)	MS Teams Room
10:00-11:00	**Registration and posters (voting closes at 14:55)**	**General** **Café and Social Area** **Poster Room**
10:00 Question	Looking back over the past 12 months, what has been the most memorable moment (either positive or negative) in your academic life?	**Café and Social Area**
11:00-11:05	**Welcome and introduction** **Professor Kath Shennan,** Dean of Quality Enhancement and Assurance **Dr Steve Tucker,** Institutional Resilient Learning Communities Enhancement Theme Lead	**Keynote (Main Room)**
11:05-12:05	**Leading Enhancement in challenging times: creating outcomes of value** **Professor Ruth Taylor** Vice-Principal (Education), University of Aberdeen Deputy Theme Leader of QAA Scotland's new Enhancement Theme 'Resilient Learning Communities' **Professor Clare Peddie** Vice-Principal Education (Proctor), University of St Andrews Theme Leader of QAA Scotland's new Enhancement Theme 'Resilient Learning Communities' The context in which we are all working is hugely challenging, but has led to a great deal of innovation and creativity in the education and support of students in Higher Education. The ways in which we have worked in partnership with students, supported their learning experience, and enabled them to make connections in the context of blended learning, have exemplified that innovation and creativity in many areas. In addition, Scotland's HE sector has demonstrated real leadership, and our enhancement-led quality assurance is viewed positively in the global context. Our presentation aims to provide an overview of the current QAA Scotland Enhancement Theme, Resilient Learning Communities, so that we create a sense of the purpose and vision for the theme from the perspective of us as theme leads. We will offer a sense of how we can work as a sector to take the theme forward both within cross-sector collaborations, and in our own institutions. The presentation will begin by introducing the enhancement-led approach that Scotland has so successfully taken forward, and will then explain the theme itself and how the work of the themes will be evaluated. Following this, we will try to make this presentation 'real' for you and we will do that in two ways. Firstly, we will discuss the ways in which the University of Aberdeen is taking forward the theme and how our approach aligns with the wider aims of the Enhancement Theme. Secondly, we will ask you to tell us what the theme means to you, and how we can ensure that the theme's work offers practically useful outputs. We have an ambition to ensure that the work of this theme leads to useful and valuable outputs that you can use in your everyday practice as you strive to enhance the experience of students in your settings. You can help us to do that.	**Keynote (Main Room)**
12:05-12:45	**Lunch and posters (voting closes at 14:55)**	**Café and Social Area** **Poster Room**
12:05 Question	Comparing this current year with previous years, are you doing anything different with regards to supporting students' learning? Are there things that have stayed the same?	**Café and Social Area**

	Choose one panel from each pair of sessions below (session: 1 <u>or</u> 2, 3 <u>or</u> 4, 5 <u>or</u> 6)	
12:45-13:30 **Session 1**	**Social presence and blended learning** **Chair: Dr Kirsty Kiezebrink, Dean of Educational Innovation** • Dr Mirjam Brady-Van den Bos, Lecturer, School of Psychology • Dr Shelly Farrar, Research Fellow, School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition • Dr Graeme Nixon, Senior Lecturer, School of Education • Sophie O'Neill, PGT student, School of Law	**Room 2**
12:45-13.30 **Session 2**	**Building Resilient Learning Communities: Student and staff perspective** Chair: Dr Steve Tucker, Institutional Resilient Learning Communities Enhancement Theme Lead • Amudha Poobalan Senior Lecturer (Scholarship), School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition • Karen Scaife, Student Engagement Manager, Student Experience • Chiara Riezzo, Student Intern+ and UG student, Business Management and Sociology • Serena Rossi, UG student, School of Social Science	**Room 3**
13:35-14:20 **Session 3**	**Enhancing academic integrity through smart design** **Chair: Professor Kath Shennan, Dean of Quality Enhancement and Assurance** • Dr Euan Bain, Senior Lecturer (Scholarship), School of Engineering • Dr John Lamb, Lecturer in Management Studies, Business School • Professor Michelle Pinard, Professor in Biological Science, School of Biological Sciences • Mia Koponen, UG student, School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition	**Room 4**
13:35-14:20 **Session 4**	**Supporting mental wellbeing for staff and students** **Chair: Jacquie Nicholson, Scottish Lead, UMO** • Dr Bedour Alshaigy, Lecturer (Scholarship), School of Natural and Computing Sciences • Nicolas Le Bigre, Teaching Fellow and Archivist, The Elphinstone Institute • Rebekah Walker, Wellbeing Adviser • Janet Gauthier, UG student, School of Psychology	**Room 5**
14:20-14:55	**Break and posters (voting closes at 14:55)**	**Café and Social Area Poster Room**
14:20 **Question**	Looking at your own experience of blended teaching this year (+ what you heard today), what do you think are important areas for pedagogical research to focus on next?	**Café and Social Area**
14:55-15:40 **Session 5**	**Learning together: Supporting an inclusive, accessible and diverse learning culture** **Chair: Professor Abbe Brown, Dean for Student Support** • Dr Anna Bokedal, Lecturer (Scholarship) in Swedish, School of Language, Literature, Music and Visual Culture • Dr Flora Groening, Senior Lecturer in Anatomy, School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition • Dr Aravinda Guntupalli, Senior Lecturer, School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition • Ibiere Jumbo, PGR student, School of Law	**Room 6**
14:55-15:40 **Session 6**	**Solving future skills challenges: Effective partnerships between university and employers** **Chair: Dr John Barrow, Dean of Employability and Entrepreneurship** • Dr Lyn Batchelor, Director of Studies for the Qatar Campus, AFG College with the University of Aberdeen • Dr Ian Fleming, Lecturer (Scholarship), School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition • Dr Heather Morgan, Lecturer (Scholarship) in Applied Health Sciences, School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition • Evie Gilbert, UG student, School of Divinity, History and Philosophy	**Room 7**
15:45-16:00	**Principal's Teaching Excellence Award 2020/21** **Symposium poster competition awards** Presented by **Professor Ruth Taylor,** Vice-Principal (Education)	**Keynote (Main Room)**