Pedagogy Transformation funding deadline: 2nd March

The second call for Pedagogy Transformation proposals is now open. During this second call we encourage Departments to submit Stream A proposals – i.e. applications by whole Departments or groups of Departments that have already made significant progress in curriculum review and redesign, requesting additional resources to support the introduction of more active learning. Funding will also be available for smaller scale initiatives (Stream B) in the current funding call only.

Those planning to apply are strongly encouraged to discuss their request with myself and to consult with the Educational Development Unit before submitting their outline proposal.

Talking Teaching Seminar 17th January, 14:00-15:00, room G41 RSM

The second seminar in our Talking Teaching Series is scheduled for 17th January 2018 from 13:45 in Room G41, the Royal School of Mines. We will be hearing from Dr Elizabeth Hauke about designing inclusive and participatory curricula and from Dr Sophie Rutschmann on improving student’s efficiency and impact when reading and presenting data. More information and RSVP here.

Active Learning Course Feb – Mar 2018, deadline: 22nd January

This new, four-part blended learning course is designed to introduce staff to the basic theories and principles underlying active learning, as well as considering practical suggestions for incorporating active learning strategies into their curriculum. The course will therefore be particularly useful for those involved in curriculum review and innovation as part of the Learning and Teaching strategy.

The first offering of this course is 1st February and recruitment for this closes on Monday 22nd January – spaces are limited and those interested are advised to book as soon as possible.

This course is spread over 12 weeks and will involve attendance at all four of the three-hour face-to-face sessions as well as participation in a series of online learning activities. The anticipated commitment will be 20 hours for the whole course and no prior teaching qualifications are required to attend. More details and session dates.

Excellence Fund for Learning and Teaching Innovation deadline: 29th January

This year’s call for applications to the Excellence Fund for Learning and Teaching Innovation is now open. The Fund was designed to give our staff the time and space to be bold, to take risks, to investigate and to learn.

To support this strategic aim in the scheme’s second year, funds will be awarded to support projects which stimulate the development of more inclusive learning and teaching, with a focus on the development of inclusive curriculum content and use of inclusive research and research concepts. We look forward to receiving your applications by Monday 29th January.

Curriculum Review Kick-off Workshop 31st January, 14:00-16:00

On 31st January, we are hosting a Curriculum Review Kick-off Workshop. The workshop will introduce departmental Curriculum Review Teams to key support contacts across the College.

The workshop will draw on expertise from Academic Departments as well as the Education Development Unit (EDU), the Registry, the Centre for Languages Culture and Communications (CLCC) the Digital Learning Hub, the Graduate School, the Centre for Academic English, Student Union and the Careers Services.

To request an invite, please get in touch with Andrea Rialas (a.rialas@imperial.ac.uk).
Talking Teaching Seminar 21st February, 14:00-15:00, Skempton Building, room 301

We will be hearing from Professor Oscar Ces, co-director of the Imperial College Advanced Hackspace (ICAH). ICAH’s vision is to allow any member of Imperial’s community to develop their ideas into reality. Since its launch in mid-2014, ICAH has transformed the ideation and prototyping landscape at the college, growing to over 3000 members from all Faculties and Departments across the college, from medics to scientists to engineers to business students and future technology leaders. Read the full abstract and RSVP here.

Quality Assurance documentation and Programme specification

The implementation of modular curricula for all first year 2019/20 undergraduates will require the College’s Departments to achieve deep reviews of all UG programmes, and obtain approval of new curricula via the College’s Quality Assurance Committees by March 2019.

To assist Departments with this, a suite of documents has been produced to guide departments around the Quality Assurance (QA) and programme level specification. While these documents are likely to be refined, the draft templates offer a good example of the types of information that Departments can expect to present to their Faculty Committees.

To complement this guidance, we are organising a workshop in March which will focus on QA and programme level specification for all Curriculum Review Teams. Further details will be announced soon.

Horizons/BPES Integrative Modules within New Curricula

Last month a proposal for Horizons/BPES Integrative Modules was presented to the Learning and Teaching Committee. This proposal is now out for consultation with the Faculties.

The Learning and Teaching Strategy (LTS) commits us to offering some broad, integrative modules which will allow all our students apply disciplinary knowledge in a new context for credit. All departments will be expected to make space for these new modules during the curriculum design process. For more information on the proposals contact your DUGS.

Education Development Unit Teaching Toolkits

To assist Departments their Curriculum Review the Education Development Unit have created topic- specific toolkits with tips and advice about intended learning outcomes, inclusive learning and teaching, and assessment and feedback. The online toolkits can be accessed here.

Communication and news

We are committed to supporting Faculties and Departments to efficiently and effectively implement the Learning and Teaching Strategy. To assist Departments with this we are continuously updating content and information on our webpages and blog. Please keep an eye on the website and blog for updates, and encourage your colleagues to visit these pages.

More generally, we are keen to identify the information you need in the formats you want. If you have any specific requests, please send your suggestions to ltstrategy@imperial.ac.uk

Many thanks

Alan Spivey

16th Jan 2018