

Centre for Transformative Learning



Autumn 2022

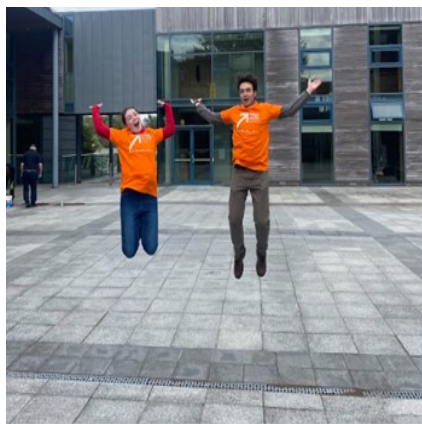
Student Engagement



Interactive Handbook 2022/23

This collaborative handbook is an uncomplicated accessible interactive guide to all the facilities, supports, academic and social information at UL providing a one stop place for our new and existing students to find the information they need.

Autumn Semester 2022 saw the First Seven Weeks Hub open its physical doors for the first time in two years since the move online due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



Our F7W Directional Guides were all around campus for the first five weeks of Semester, guiding and helping their fellow students.

This Semester at a glance...

- 4 days of Orientation Tent Talks
- 100 participants at the Quiz
- Nearly 3000 cups of tea provided to students
- 8 Sponsors for prizes and competitions
- 176 posts on Instagram
- 396,977 impressions, 164,128 posts, 232,849 stories on Instagram
- 2,313 drop-ins



F7W Hub Staff Autumn 2022

Orientation Autumn 2022

September saw the return of our first in-person Orientation since Autumn 2019. The CTL team was involved across the board, from the planning and preparation stages to ensuring the safe and effective delivery of an unforgettable four-day on-campus event. Students were welcomed on-campus for their welcome talks on Monday, September 19th and proceeded to take part in orientation activities for the following four days. Students were invited to tent talks where they were given an overview of the student support services on offer here at UL. These talks included offerings from F7Ws, SESU colleagues, LevUL Up, and some of our Learning Centres. Students also took part in campus tours, Library tours, and UL Sport taster sessions and enjoyed the welcoming atmosphere UL has to offer. The return to in-person orientation was welcomed by all, especially our new first-year students.

SESU

The student engagement and success unit continues to work on increasing student engagement and providing support to our students, in particular our first-year students. Supporting first years in their transition to University, the SESU rolled out a series of workshops in their respective areas including QCA workshops, skills for academic success, supporting student assignments, and referencing workshops. Ongoing support is also being provided by the SESU, as well as the SSOs, to ensure students are supported as needed to make their first year in UL a success.

Digital Education

Digital Skills Development for Students -LevUL UP

The [Enhancing Digital Teaching and Learning](#) project led by IUA and funding by HEA was celebrated in Dublin on 29th November with key programme of events and attended by UL project Lead, David Moloney. The key resources developed include the [LevUL Up](#) programme, a digital skills and competence development programme for UL students managed and coordinated by David Moloney, CTL, in collaboration with colleagues in CTL, the Library, Information Technology Division (ITD), and the Educational Assistive Technology Centre (EATC). It was offered as a blended approach providing live in-person and online workshops that ran repeatedly for 3 weeks, Monday 17 Oct. - Friday 4 Nov. It comprised a [Digital Skills Awareness Course \(DSAC\)](#) (700 registrations) plus a [calendar of 16 workshops](#) (400 registrations) on a range of digital skills and competence development related topics. Workshops were mapped to the [European Digital Competence Framework for Citizens \(DigComp\)](#). For Spring 2021-Autumn 2022 inclusive there have been 5,500 registrations for the workshops.



David Moloney and colleagues attending the EDTL Conference

Brightspace Implementation

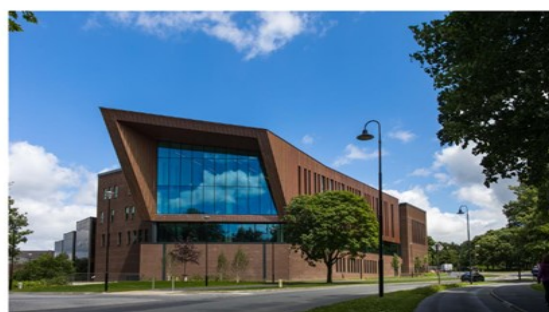
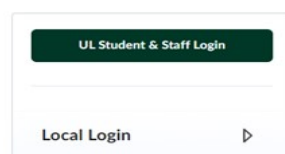
The VLE Project has completed and evaluated the first pilot implementation on Brightspace. In preparation for Phase 2 of implementation in SEM2, a training programme has been led by Dr Angélica Rísquez and the VLE Project Learning Technologists, Laura Toby and Elaine O'Shea. As part of its Quality Assurance working group, CTL (Dr Angélica Rísquez and Dr Ide O'Sullivan) has contributed to the design of the mastercourse for the VLE implementation.

For more information, visit [Brightspace | University of Limerick \(ul.ie\)](#)



Welcome to Brightspace,

The Virtual Learning Environment for the University of Limerick.



STELA Live – Learning Analytics for Student Success

The '[STELA Live](#)' project, led by Dr Angélica Rísquez, Claire Halpin and Dr Mohd Fazil was implemented during SEM1 2022 with four large first year cohorts in KBS, S&E and AHSS. The intervention consisted of an information campaign to students and personalised email communication providing students feedback on their engagement with the VLE (Sulis) and their likelihood of succeeding in the module as a results of machine learning model analysis. The project was facilitated through the Power Intelligence Unit in ITD and its impact is being currently evaluated.



Learning Centres

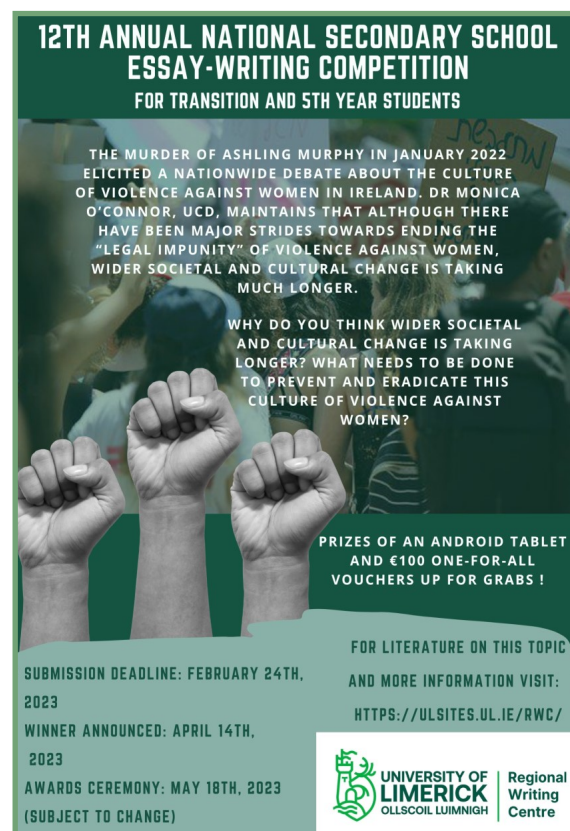
Mathematics Learning Centre (MLC)

- The MLC supported students via its drop-in centre, online classes, and 24/7 online material this semester. 834 student visits were made to the drop-in centre in addition to 1,799 attendances at live online sessions. A further 1,700 hours of the MLC's 24/7 support material was viewed on Sulis.
- The MLC also ran its annual two-week Head Start Maths course at the start of September for mature students who were starting their studies in UL. The Head Start Maths course is a bridging course which helps mature students grasp some basics of maths before beginning their degrees.
- The MLC conducted a tutor training day for new tutors in the dept. of Mathematics and Statistics in September.
- The MLC is currently piloting Cielo24 post captioning services. This is part of a project which is being led by Thomas O'Shaughnessy.
- The MLC is also piloting a tutor evaluation system for those in support teaching roles in conjunction with the CTL.

Learning Centres

Regional Writing Centre

- The Regional Writing Centre offered face-to-face peer tutoring this semester for the first time since March 2020, giving students the option to meet online if they preferred.
- The RWC offered 298 hours of peer tutoring at the time of writing at the close of November.
- Students booked 57 face-to-face appointments and 198 online appointments thus far this semester.
- In August, we held our first live PhD Writers' Week since January of 2020. Participants were positive about the experience. Interest in our January 2023 PhD Writers' Week is strong.
- The RWC has also opened its Writers' Space to a new group of five PhD students meeting every Thursday from 9am-1pm. A list is forming as well of those interested in forming other writers' groups. The RWC continues to work with PhD writers interested in participating in social strategies for furthering their research and writing goals.
- The RWC has organised and advertised its 2022/23 annual National Secondary School Essay-writing Competition, details [here](#).



12TH ANNUAL NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL ESSAY-WRITING COMPETITION
FOR TRANSITION AND 5TH YEAR STUDENTS

THE MURDER OF ASHLING MURPHY IN JANUARY 2022 ELICITED A NATIONWIDE DEBATE ABOUT THE CULTURE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN IRELAND. DR MONICA O'CONNOR, UCD, MAINTAINS THAT ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN MAJOR STRIDES TOWARDS ENDING THE "LEGAL IMPUNITY" OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, WIDER SOCIETAL AND CULTURAL CHANGE IS TAKING MUCH LONGER.

WHY DO YOU THINK WIDER SOCIETAL AND CULTURAL CHANGE IS TAKING LONGER? WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO PREVENT AND ERADICATE THIS CULTURE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?

PRIZES OF AN ANDROID TABLET AND €100 ONE-FOR-ALL VOUCHERS UP FOR GRABS!

FOR LITERATURE ON THIS TOPIC AND MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
[HTTPS://ULSITES.UL.IE/RWC/](https://ulsites.ul.ie/rwc/)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 24TH, 2023
WINNER ANNOUNCED: APRIL 14TH, 2023
AWARDS CEREMONY: MAY 18TH, 2023 (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

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Regional Writing Centre

Science Learning Centre (SLC)

- The SLC opened its Drop-in Centre from Wednesday-Friday each week this semester. We provided a total of 22 hours of face-to-face support on average per week with tutors from various backgrounds including Physics, Engineering, Chemistry, Biology, Process Technology and Chemical Engineering.
- Tutors also provided 5 hours of online 1-1 support for students each week and a total of 60 sessions have been booked this semester so far.
- Support tutorials were organised for eight modules this semester with the permission of lecturers.
- Tutors attended a bespoke 'Introduction to UDL Principles' online webinar with Thomas O' Shaughnessy and Jess Beeley in November.
- Tutors also took part in a 'Destination College' event to promote opportunities for science-based degrees to secondary school students at the Colaiste Nano Nagle Careers Fair on the 22nd November.

ICT Learning Centre (ICTLC)

- The ICT Learning Centre (ICTLC) is supporting the two core first-year CSIS computer programming modules (201 students) during the Autumn semester using the [Digital Learning Support Hub \(DLSH\) framework](#). Relevant online video and quiz content was made available to the students each week from week 2. Each week the DLSH content is further supported by both face-to-face and live online Peer-lead sessions (12 sessions weekly) using the Peer Supported Learning Group (PSLG) model.
- The ICTLC director presented on the DLSH framework project at the [QQI 10th anniversary conference | Quality and Qualifications Ireland](#) in October, for more information please view a short recording of this presentation [here](#).
- The core ECE first-year programming module (317 students) receive additional support from ICTLC staff implementing the Pair-Programming (PP) method of learning in labs to encourage active engagement and peer learning. A second ECE first-year programming module (71 students) was supported by ICTLC student-peers each week from week 2 to 13 inclusive with weekly face-to-face peer learning sessions (5 per week) utilising the PSLG model.
- The ICTLC opened in week 3 with 18 hours of Drop-in support being offered each week, both face-to-face in the centre (CS1-046) and synchronously online. This year the centre ran a full drop-in schedule up to and including week 13 to ensure the maximum support was offered to new first-year students that had a delayed start to their semester. In total there were in excess of 1014 visits to our drop-in support during the semester.
- Over 32 hours of module/subject targeted sessions were delivered by ICTLC staff for students of 6 modules during the Autumn semester.
- Our UL Cybercamp's for secondary school students made a welcome return to campus in the summer of 2022. There were three 3-day camps between the 27th June and the 7th of July. During this time , 117 students, 43 of which were ladies, from 37 schools took part in the initiative and the feedback from the attendees has been extremely positive. Each 3-day camp consists of a day that focuses on a specific area of ICT namely: An introduction to programming, basic web design and Electronics/robots. The ICT Learning Centre and the Peer Supported Learning Centre manage the camps with the help of both the CSIS and ECE departments. For more information on the camps, please see our [website](#).



Cyber Camp 2022



Supporting Scholarship

- As part of a European Writing Centres Association (EWCA) initiative, Lawrence Cleary, RWC Director, presented online to writing scholars from across Europe, on November 17, 2022, on the role of writing centre tutors in the facilitation of the transfer of writing knowledge to new contexts of writing. The presentation was recorded and appears [here](#).



- Action for Wisdom: Learning, Teaching and Assessment strategy* was approved by the Executive Committee on 23 November, the Academic Council on 7 December, and the Governing Authority on 15 December 2022 and will be launched early in the New Year. In the interim, it is available to view on UL Connect at this link: [Action for Wisdom - UL Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy 2022-2027](#)

Professional Development

Professional Development:

- As an At-Large Board Member of the International Writing Centers Association (IWCA), Lawrence Cleary, RWC Director, attended and presented at the International Writing Centers Association (IWCA) annual conference in Vancouver, B.C., Canada.
- Peer observation network. A workshop was held in late September for all of those interesting in contributing to the peer observation network this semester. A total of 47 teaching staff across diverse disciplines signed up to take part as either observees or observers for teaching enhancement either face to face or online.
- The [UL Excellence in Teaching Awards and Regional Teaching Excellence Awards](#) are underway with over 30 nominations received and key supports offered to nominees via webinars during November 2022.
- Recognition of professional development in Teaching & learning is an important consideration in recognition and progression pathways. An inter-institutional cross-sector scoping project is being led by CTL (Dr Mary Fitzpatrick and Dr Michael Wride) to ascertain the nature of the current approaches and frameworks being applied across the Irish HEI sector with a view to developing an approach that can be applied successfully at UL. Dr Mary Fitzpatrick, in collaboration with Dr Jenny Lawrence, from Oxford Brookes University, secured funding under the Advance HE Collaborative Development Fund to develop a number of new case studies on the use of the PSF and fellowships in [Utilising the Professional Standards Framework for Teaching and Supporting Learning for Strategic Change](#). The related blog is [live](#)

International Events and Collaborations

- As the current Chair of the European Writing Centers Association (EWCA), Lawrence Cleary, RWC Director, is working with the EWCA board to organise the EWCA Summer Institute in Yerevan, Armenia scheduled for May 22-26, 2023. Lawrence has also agreed to host and is currently organising the 2024 bi-annual EWCA Conference to be held here at UL in June of 2024.
- As an At-Large Board Member of the International Writing Centers Association (IWCA), Lawrence Cleary, served as the Travel Grant Chair, organising and working with a committee of IWCA members to evaluate and award travel grant applicants seeking financial assistance to attend the IWCA's 2022 Annual Conference in Vancouver, B.C., Canada and Co-chaired the IWCA Publications Committee with Nikki Caswell, Director of the East Carolina University Writing Center and Writing Mentor Program in Greenville, North Carolina and Professional Editor of The Peer Review, assisting with selection of the post of Managing Editor of The Peer Review.
- [Staff and Educational Developers Association](#) conference, *Pandemic Teaching – How are we coping?*, was co-chaired by Dr Mary Fitzpatrick on 1st December, 2022.
- [Irish Conference for Engaging Pedagogy](#), *Teaching and Learning: Making it Work*, was co-chaired by Dr Mary Fitzpatrick on 8th December, 2022.
- Dr Angélica Rísquez, in partnership with Prof Maura Adshead (Community Engagement), travelled to Maribor, Slovenia as part of the project '[E-laboratory for digital education](#)', which received Erasmus + funding of €163,877. This project focuses on developing the digital pedagogical competencies of teaching staff around the area of digital assessment, resulting in the production of multimedia resources to promote evidence-based approaches to good practice in online assessment.



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