

HETAC & SIF 2 ERA Symposium
Repositioning Learner Assessment in Higher Education
Friday 14th May

Programme

8.30 – 9.20	Registration
9.30 – 9.45	Opening & welcome <i>Dr. Chris Horn, President of Engineers Ireland and Co-founder of Iona Technologies</i>
9.45 – 10.45	Keynote 1 : Assessment – a manifesto for change Professor Chris Rust Oxford Brookes University <i>Chair : Gearóid Ó Conluain Uasal, Chief Executive HETAC</i>
10.45 – 11.15	Poster Exhibition – SIF 2 ERA Research Projects IT Carlow, DKIT, ITB & ITT <i>Coffee / Tea</i>
11.15 - 12. 15	Keynote 2 : ‘Fit for purpose’ assessment to improve student learning Professor Sally Brown Vice – chancellor Leeds Metropolitan University <i>Chair: Dr. Ruaidhri Neavyn, President IT Carlow (Chair IoTI)</i>
12.15 – 1.15	Lunch Poster Exhibition – SIF 2 ERA Research Projects IT Carlow, DKIT, ITB & ITT
1.15 - 2.15	Keynote 3. Transformational change through Assessment : REAP Project Professor David Nicol University of Strathclyde <i>Chair: Dr. Mary Liz Trant, Higher Education Authority</i>
2.20– 3.00	Discussion Groups – breakout sessions
3.00 -3.15	Coffee /Tea
3.15 - 4.15	Keynote 4. Putting Assessment for Learning into Practice: the Northumbria model Professor Liz McDowell & Professor Kay Sambell Northumbria University <i>Chair: Mr. Peter Mannion, President USI</i>
4.15 – 4.45	Plenary Session Panel : <i>Professor Sally Brown ,Professor Liz McDowell & Professor Kay Sambell</i> <i>Chair: Dr Bryan Maguire, HETAC</i>

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Dr Chris Horn

Chris Horn, currently President of Engineers Ireland, was co-founder of Iona Technologies in 1991 and subsequently CEO, Chairman and Vice President. In 1997 Iona went public with the 5th largest IPO in the history of Nasdaq.

Chris is an electronic engineering graduate from TCD, where he received his PhD in Computer Science. He has worked in Brussels for the European Commission and was an integral part of the ten-year 'Esprit' program designed to improve Europe's technology industry. He is former Director of Science Foundation Ireland and former chairman of the 'Expert Group on Future Skills'. He is now an active member of the Governments Innovation Taskforce advising the government on strategy for positioning Ireland as an international innovation hub.

Presenter Biographies

Professor Chris Rust

Chris Rust is Head of the Oxford Centre for Staff and Learning Development, and Deputy Director of the Human Resource Directorate at Oxford Brookes University, as well as Deputy Director for two Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning - ASKe (Assessment Standards Knowledge Exchange) and the Reinvention Centre for undergraduate research (led by Warwick University).

He has researched and published on a range of issues including: the experiences of new teachers in HE, the positive effects of supplemental instruction, the effectiveness of workshops as a method of staff development, ways of diversifying assessment, and improving student performance through engagement in the assessment process. Recently he has tended to focus increasingly on assessment. He is a Fellow of both SEDA (Staff and Educational Development Association) and the RSA, and a Senior Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy, for whom he was also an accreditor.

Professor Sally Brown

Sally Brown is Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Professor of Higher Education Diversity in Teaching and Learning at Leeds Metropolitan University. Sally is a champion of diversity in education and is at the forefront of the University's work in this area. She was for five years Director of Membership Services for the Institute for Learning and Teaching, prior to which she worked at the University of Northumbria at Newcastle for almost 20 years as a lecturer, educational developer and Head of Quality Enhancement.

She is widely published, largely in the field of teaching, learning and assessment and has recently collaborated on a number of publications on best practice in relation to inclusive learning and internationalisation in the education context. Sally is also a recognised workshop facilitator and keynote speaker at conferences and events in the UK and internationally.

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Professor David Nicol

David Nicol is the Deputy-Director of the Centre for Academic Practice and Learning Enhancement at the University of Strathclyde.

He was the Director of the £1m Re-engineering Assessment Practices (REAP) project and is now co-director of a follow-on project entitled 'Principles in Patterns' looking at how to support curriculum redesign at the task, module and programme levels.

He is a member of the Steering Group of the UK Heads of E-Learning Forum, the BECTA e-portfolio group, the ALT-C Research Committee, the Universities' Scotland, Educational Development Committee and the Member of Advisory Committee of Higher Education Academy, Education Subject Centre (ESCalate). He is also involved in a number of international collaborations with Australia and US universities. His research interests are in applied educational research in three inter-related areas: assessment of student learning; e-learning and the management of change brought about by developments and innovations in assessment and e-learning in higher education

Professor Liz McDowell

Liz McDowell is a Professor in Academic Practice at Northumbria University, Head of the University's Learning & Teaching Academy, and Director of the Centre for Excellence in Assessment for Learning. The Centre has a dual role in conducting research in assessment and also promoting innovation and enhancement in assessment practice in the higher education sector.

Liz has long-standing research interests in the student experience of assessment and the impacts of assessment on learning. She is the main organiser of the Northumbria Assessment Conferences which have run since 1996 attracting an international audience of researchers and practitioners interested in the assessment of student learning.

Professor Kay Sambell

Kay Sambell is Director of Assessment for Learning Enhancement in Northumbria University's Centre for Excellence in Assessment for Learning, and Professor of Learning & Teaching in Childhood Studies in the School of Health, Community & Education Studies, where she teaches large numbers of undergraduates. She champions partnership working with students and has promoted student engagement in developing AfL, including student publications on AfL, and student involvement in mentoring, networking, peer learning and practice development.

Kay has long-standing research interests in students' perspectives on learning, especially in relation to innovative assessment, academic literacy and interdisciplinarity.