Frankly Speaking: L&T for Science and Engineering

NEWSLETTER | MAY ISSUE

This month

- Exam period
- Preparation for Session 2
- Learning and Teaching Awards
- iLearn News – Flux trial
- Portfolium implementation
- Library

From your L&T team, James Downes (Associate Dean, L&T), Kerrie Tomkins (Deputy AD L&T), Natalie Spence (Senior Learning Designer), Fiona Thurn (Senior Learning Designer)

Please note: The newsletter subscription list was over-written at some stage, removing non-FSE and non-academic staff recipients - and so you will have missed the latest newsletter, possibly others. The May L&T newsletter is accordingly being sent to you now from our best guess of subscribers. If you do not wish to receive the newsletter or would like to suggest colleagues who should receive it, please email natalie.spence@mq.edu.au

Digital Exam Guidelines

Macquarie resources for online examinations
To assist you with the transition to online assessment in place of invigilated exams, the university’s L&T Teams, along with members of the central Learning Innovation Hub (LIH), have worked to compile a resource detailing recommendations for how to design digital exams. You need to be logged into Office 365 with your MQ OneID to view the document. There are also more succinct resources available in FSE000.

Preparing for Session 2

Continuing to teach in blended and full online modes

While the university will be allowing a certain amount of on campus activity in session 2, delivery will continue to be largely online. Tools continue to become available to assist you in your endeavours to deliver your units. Echo360 recently added live streaming capability to the Universal Capture desktop tool. It’s not possible to schedule these sessions the way you would a normal live streamed class from campus, but if students are notified of when to be in Echo360, these live streams could allow you to deliver live lectures to large cohorts from the comfort of home.

There are a number of caveats regarding what you can share, but some may find this a better option than asynchronous recordings. It will also work for cohorts over 300 that don’t work in Zoom. Slides and audio are most likely the best combination for bandwidth compatibility. Anything video heavy could place a strain on student connections that are on the slower side. If you’d like to use the system, it would be a good idea to start trying it out now to see how you like it.

Univative 2020

Want your students to have a memorable winter break building employability?

The Faculty of Science and Engineering is hosting Univative 2020, a StudyNSW funded program, in collaboration with the Career and Employment Service.

Univative is an interuniversity, multi-disciplinary problem-solving competition between 9 universities.

This year, students can solve the problems with industry partners in virtual teams. Students will apply discipline-based and generic skills over the July break. Get our STEM students involved!

Apply ASAP
Learning and Teaching Awards

Nominations and award applications are open

It’s that time of year again, nominations and applications for this year’s Learning and Teaching Awards opened May 4th (Star Wars Day). The Learning and Teaching team would encourage all staff who have jumped through the many hurdles to rapidly implement fully online teaching, to reflect on your considerable achievements, and apply for one of these awards. Needless to state you can apply for an award for any of your teaching achievements, not just the rapid transition to teaching fully online. The Learning and Teaching team is also happy to assist you with your application.

23 June, 2020
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Teaching Award Application Writing Workshop
This workshop has been scheduled to support applicants who are planning to submit a 2020 Macquarie Vice-Chancellor’s Learning and Teaching Award.

Student polling software trial

A Kahoot alternative is being explored

As some convenors will be aware, the University has placed a ban on the use of external polling tools to prevent misuse. The central Learning Innovation Hub (LIH) is currently testing the system, Flux.

This system would allow student authentication to prevent any possible shenanigans. Hopefully they’re testing will be completed shortly. If you’d like to explore the system and give the LIH feedback, please contact them at ilearn.help@mq.edu.au.

Go to awards information →
Portfolium implementation

Set up of Portfolium is underway.

The decision to implement PortFolium as the University’s ePortfolio system was made earlier this year.

Implementation is underway to roll out to Foundation units in Session 2, with further integration to follow. You can read about the system [here](#).

Library online help

The Library will begin phase 1 of re-opening as of Monday, May 25. This will include limited access to some study areas, self-service laptop loans of up to 4 hours, and self-service iPrint. For all the details download this month’s [Library Report](#).

- [Information sheet](#) for using text, image and video materials in iLearn & unit readings
- FSE000 page with [Library links](#)

FSE000 for FSE discussion, tools and resources for online L&T

The L&T Team has created a section in FSE000, ‘Online Resources (COVID-19 Response)’, with:

- a ‘book’ of resources and how-tos
- Orientation to [online facilitation](#) and forums for asking questions and sharing tips
- If you are new to most of the features in iLearn, try Discover [iLearn for Convenors](#)

We actively monitor and update FSE000 content and forums daily.

Orientation to teaching online
Assessments are redesigned, lectures are being captured. Now, how to interact with students so that they are motivated, supported and clear on what to do. Please use this set of resources on facilitating online learning – especially curated by Fiona for those who have a front-line role in supporting students.

Go to orientation →

**Guides and assistance for students**

Students are also new to fully online learning and dealing with other issues to boot. Here are some services that you can link them to:

- How to use **Zoom**
- The university is also providing COVID loans, students can apply for fee extensions and new computer/technology loans to help students [study online](#). Wellbeing is also of course available for all its usual services, such as with legal or tenancy issues and counselling, or just a simple chat.
- MQ Wellbeing app. Download on [Android](#) or [iOS](#) today.
- MQ website’s guide to [Learning Online](#)
- Remind students about the Numeracy Centre, which is providing online support – they can self-enrol in [NMRCY101 in iLearn; StudyWise](#), and Learning Advisors and Librarians are available to support them.

If you have tips, links, info or other comms for students in the faculty generally, email [alison.willard@mq.edu.au](mailto:alison.willard@mq.edu.au).

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**L&T Info and support**

[FSE000 on iLearn](#): support for teaching staff  
[FSE101 on iLearn](#): support for students  
[@fse101MQ](https://twitter.com/fse101MQ): send us 140 chars to add to the iLearn block

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**YOU to the power of us**

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