

Consolidating enhancement of marine L&T advances in linking Edinburgh and Orkney campuses: sharing techniques developed in other Enhancement projects



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Other staff members involved

- Dr Sandy Kerr (Orkney)
- Dr Joanne Porter (Orkney)
- Dr Bill Sanderson (Edinburgh)
- Dr Mark Hartl (Edinburgh)
- Carrie Bennett (IT Media Studio)
- Other previous Enhancement Project leaders:
T O'Donovan, I Motawa and K Shanks

Overview

The project was run over the summer months (June-September, 2014), with staff planning and discussion meetings to help iron-out issues so that specific teaching and learning developments could be fully implemented in the next session's teaching semesters (2014-2015). A further step in ensuring integration of the students from the two campuses was the plan to run a residential practical field course in Orkney in Semester 1 for the Edinburgh-based students.

Objectives

The main objectives of this project were:

- to bring together, by VC link and visits between campuses, the project team members to have initial planning meeting and to provide ‘dedicated time’ for discussions to develop and agree the methods and delivery of the new inter-campus class group cohesion exercises.
- to learn from colleagues from previous HW Enhancement projects to implement their new techniques into the marine science Edinburgh-Orkney campus learning developments.
- to conduct ‘test-bed’ trials of the developed group-cohesion exercises and to check communication technical aspects.
- to provide impetus to the L&T strategies and plans for the School of Life Sciences specifically.

Relevance

Given the University's recent decision to integrate the work of the Orkney ICIT campus into the management and activities of the School of Life Sciences, this Enhancement project took on even more relevance to support SLS in meeting its L&T strategy plans and inter-campus programme coherence. Implementation of the outcomes of this project in Academic Session 2014-2015 should enhance the student experience at both campuses in relevant courses by enabling class group work together – lessening perhaps the sense of 'isolation' on a remote campus of students based in Orkney and widening the perspective of Edinburgh-based students of the unique natural environment in Orkney's 'Living Laboratory'.

Heriot-Watt University Orkney Campus

www.ICIT.hw.ac.uk

The International Centre for Island Technology (ICIT) was established in 1990 with a focus on the marine industrial activities there (a major North Sea Oil Terminal; important fishing, agricultural, food and drink industries; marine tourism). More recently, with the establishment of the European Marine Energy Centre (www.emec.org.uk) on the Campus, there is much research and training on marine renewable energy systems (wave and current power) and their impact on the environment.



Marine and Environmental MSc/MRes degrees taught in the School of Life Sciences

- MSc Marine Resource Development and Protection (Edinburgh)
- MSc Marine Biodiversity and Biotechnology (Edinburgh)
- MSc Marine Resource Management (Orkney)
- MSc Marine Spatial Planning (Edinburgh)
- MSc Marine Renewable Energy (Orkney)
- MSc Climate Change: Managing the Marine Environment (Edinburgh)
- MSc Climate Change: Impacts and Mitigation (Edinburgh)
- MSc Renewable Energy Development (Orkney)
- MRes Environmental Analysis and Assessment (Edinburgh)









HWU Marine MSc Fieldcourse
October 2014

Conclusion

- Availability of natural resources influences the selection of a site for renewable development.
- My team worked on the area for a period of a few days.
- We acknowledged everything and take pros and cons into consideration.
- We have decided to move our team to an area that has a lot more potential.
- We just need to send out our experts!

R.	n.	W.	L.
30	4071	609	
62	809	325	
23	307	265	
62	265	192	
66	199	79	
54	150	60	
68	100		



GROUP 1	...
GROUP 2	...
GROUP 3	...
GROUP 4	...



R	W
30	421
42	629
53	307
62	265
66	199
79	150
100	100

Feedback

Positive

- New skills, real-life, practical aspects
- Meeting the other students
- Access to staff and support by them

Negative

- "Poor" in "Facilities" commonly referred to wifi & availability of computing analytical facilities

Observations

- Some people found the biology too much, some found the engineering too much, some thought they should have the course later in the year when they'd had a chance to learn some of it. Others relished the opportunity to be exposed to different disciplines and “in at the deep end”

Outcomes

L&T THEMES

- A research-informed and professionally relevant curriculum;
- An international & multi-disciplinary curriculum;
- Student-centred approaches that promote student engagement & leadership;
- Reshaping the learning environment (for staff & students) through technological mediation and the distribution of learning across global locations.