

IADT Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy – In Brief

Overview

Excellence in Teaching and Learning is at the core of IADT's mission. To achieve this aspect of our mission, IADT focuses on student-centered pedagogies that are discipline specific and which explore emerging areas of interdisciplinarity to align with our core strategic objectives. This document outlines our Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy (LTA). This document is supported by the Teaching and Learning Committee and the Office of the Registrar in IADT, and considers IADT's overall current strategic plan (IADT, Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023 Better Futures Created Together, 2019), national guidelines (Irish Government, 2019) (Hunt & Higher Education Strategy Group, 2011) (Department of Further and Higher Education, 2021), within the broader UNESCO context and Framework for Action (FFA) of [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#).

Values

IADT values the individual experience of teachers and learners and 'draws from the well' of this experience locally, and in the wider academic community in Ireland and internationally. Our values are aligned with the Institute's mission-based [performance compact](#) with the HEA (HEA & IADT, 2018), teaching focus groups and the [Institute's Strategic Plan](#) (IADT, Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023 Better Futures Created Together, 2019), [Learner Charter](#) (IADT, IADT Learner Charter, 2020) and relevant government publications. Our mission values are to:

- Imbue a culture of excellence in all aspects of learning, teaching and assessment practice within and across disciplines;

- Value our students and enable them to reach their potential in their educational and career goals by creating supportive learning environments;
- Serve the public interest by ensuring our systems and all our operations remain open, transparent, ethically consistent and accountable;
- Uphold integrity (including academic integrity), equality, inclusion, independence, social responsibility and professionalism throughout the learning, teaching and assessment environment;
- Commit to a culture of continuous learning and professional development and inclusive leadership (to that end, CPD courses in LTA are available and encouraged for all staff);
- Embrace innovation, creativity, social responsibility, and responsiveness in how we conduct our work;
- Treat colleagues and learners fairly in line with the [Public Sector Human Rights and Equality](#) obligations and in-house [mutual respect policy](#).

Teaching and Learning Mission Statement

IADT's vision for Learning, Teaching and Assessment (LTA) is to continually innovate in all aspects of the student and staff experience around learning, teaching and assessment by supporting staff and developing the campus learning environment to create curious, engaged creators, critical thinkers and skilled global citizens. The teaching staff work to apply these attributes and contribute towards equitable and sustainable forms of development in teaching and learning.

IADT is committed in principle and practice to the achievement of equity of access, increased participation and high retention and progression rates for all learners. The Institute aims to help each student reach their potential through the provision of a supportive, vibrant, and challenging learning environment, both in person and online. All staff are involved in the construction of this learning environment, endeavoring to create an inclusive, safe and inspiring place to learn. All students are valued equally during their learning journey with IADT. Accordingly, the curriculum, teaching and learning and assessment at IADT are centred on the student. Policies around learning and teaching promote and support the diversity of all studying at IADT. An emphasis on interdisciplinary alignment and collaborative learning is encouraged throughout the institute in keeping with a holistic education.

Context

LTA (Learning, Teaching and Assessment) in IADT take place in the national and international context of higher education. LTA embodies principles of fairness, natural justice, equity and places the student as key stakeholders of their learning. IADT is a research and evidence-led higher education institution, and research is required to enable the Institute's teaching programmes to be excellent, creative, progressive, sustainable and relevant.

The national context for higher education is quality in teaching and learning, flexible provision, experience gain, enhancing social inclusion, engaging an inclusive learning environment, raising skills levels - particularly transferable skills - and promoting economic, regional, social and cultural development. The international context is one of mobility, international and Erasmus exchanges.

This LTA strategy directly supports The National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030 and the vision that the higher education system will “play its part as a major agent of positive change & development for both the individual and wider society”. (Hunt & Higher Education Strategy Group, 2011). The balance between the rise of individualism and a strengthening societal and communal good is achieved through personal growth and communal consciousness; this is fostered through developing individual acumen through knowledge acquisition, skills development, and empathy. The mission encompasses three interconnected core elements; teaching and learning, research, and engagement (with wider society and internationally). Critical thinking, adaptability and creativity are key characteristics required of graduates in the future labour market. From the more recent DFHRIS strategy document, innovation and inclusion are placed at the centre of graduate attributes on a national and international level: ‘... whole-of-Government approach to agree the strategy, institutional framework, and investment

needed to advance basic and applied research and innovation, grounded in collaboration between enterprise, educational institutions, and wider society, in Ireland and beyond.’ (Department of Further and Higher Education, 2021)

The legal obligations are those stated in the [Qualifications and Quality Assurance \(Education and Training\) Act](#) for programmes that meet the standards of the [National Framework of Qualifications](#) (QQI, 2003) and have ‘procedures which are fair and consistent for the assessment of . . . learners’. (Irish Government, 2019).

The emphases on programme learning outcomes, modular assessment, and flexible modes of delivery for the learner have been monitored and reflected in all full-time courses via Programme Boards and Programmatic Reviews for all courses undertaken by each Faculty.

Additionally, LTA in IADT is informed by the work of the OECD Skills Strategy (OECD, 2019) process as well as the National Skills Strategy 2025 (Gov.ie, 2021).

Strategic Priorities in LTA alignment with current IADT Strategic Plan

Currently IADT’s Strategic Priorities for 2019 – 2023 inhabit the following triad:

- Excellence
- Growth
- Community

The LTA strategy reflects these priorities. We have recently achieved Bronze Athena Swan status. ‘Variety’ magazine identified the NFS as one of the top [20 film schools in the world](#) in 2020. Our business students have been finalists in the CIMA Global Business Challenge. Our undergraduate degree offerings have increased from 15 to 20 courses over recent years. Post Graduate offerings currently stand at 20 courses, including MA, MSC, Diploma and certificate programmes. Through our collaborative national and international partnerships through the CFA, FilmEU and Erasmus programmes, the possibility of additional growth is predicted. Through the T&L team community-based projects, for example the work on a Local Engagement Project (LEP) by Marion McDonnell integrating ID adults on a co-design initiative and the upcoming [Human Library](#) community event,

the community priority from the T&L lead is demonstrated as an important part of the work of teaching and learning. Many of our lecturers are lauded in their own disciplines; their excellence creates the unique learning experience offered in IADT.

National Forum for Teaching and Learning in Ireland – HEA strategic priorities 2022 – 2025

Three areas of focus have been determined by the HEA through the NFTLI. The Teaching and Learning Committee in IADT will develop funded programmes and seminars in collaboration with internal and external partners under the following thematic headings:

- Theme 1 - Education for Sustainable Development
- Theme 2 - Digital Transformation - digital and open teaching and learning, including online, blended and face-to-face
- Theme 3 - Academic Integrity (Assessments, Exams and Academic Integrity, online, proctoring, NAIN)

Developed events will further enhance learning, teaching and assessment throughout the institute and in the broader national/international context.

IADT is a member of NFETLI (National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Ireland), NAIN (National Academic Integrity Network), and THEA (Technological Higher Education Association). IADT is a partner in FilmEU and the Creative Futures Academy (CFA).

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