

# IATL Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning

The space where collaborative learning happens

Summer 2011



## WHAT IATL DOES

Learning creatively in the IATL spaces.

IATL's aim, in response to the University's 2015 strategy and vision, is to produce 'A Warwick student experience of distinction'. IATL works with departments to embed research-based and practice-based learning in the undergraduate curriculum, to promote the vision of an inclusive academic community where learners, teachers and researchers are all seen as scholars and collaborators in the common pursuit of knowledge, and to foster a pedagogy that enhances creativity and interdisciplinarity, all with an international perspective.

The IATL team are active practitioners, teaching, researching and writing as well as offering support, guidance and training to other academics. IATL's scope is:

- to produce excellence through pedagogic interventions, course development and special events, in collaboration with departments and other university partners, and through tightly focussed project grants and fellowship schemes;
- to support strategic development in teaching and learning through collaboration and co-funding with service and support departments in the University;
- to identify and develop innovative pedagogies that reflect the needs of Warwick students;
- to produce new practice to support research and development in new and emergent areas;
- to disseminate good practice beyond the University to make Warwick an internationally recognised centre of pedagogic excellence.



Disseminating good practice.

## MESSAGE FROM PAUL TAYLOR

The Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning (IATL) was formed in August 2010, the start of an extraordinary year for Higher Education. The Coalition Government's HE and FE bill passed tumultuously through the legislative channels. Students marched through the streets of England's cities to protest against the withdrawal of the Education Maintenance Allowance, against the swingeing cuts to the teaching grant to English universities and against the proposals to significantly increase University fees. Universities themselves have grappled with the dilemma of just how high to set those fees. Though less well documented in the media, students have also been engaged in long-term 'sit-ins', occupying lecture theatres and seminar rooms around the country.

Yet round the corner from those occupied lecture theatres, students sat silent in rows while academics talked at them or at neat lines of desks in the exam hall. Teaching and learning committees repeated the mantra that students won't do anything unless assessed, and they agonised over their institution's feedback scores in the latest Student Satisfaction Survey.

Fortunately, at Warwick many highly motivated students and inspirational staff challenge this negative view of Higher Education. The IATL ethos is to foster collaboration between staff and students, ignoring conventional boundaries between them as well as between disciplines and academic and service departments. This work is facilitated by increasingly innovative physical and virtual learning spaces.

IATL staff and funding support students and staff at Warwick in exploring the idea of what our University might be, where students are researchers and practitioners, engaging with other disciplines and other cultures, working creatively and collaboratively in open teaching and learning spaces.

As Director of IATL for 2011/12, I want more than anything to hear about your idea of a University. Please get in touch.

Students have rarely seemed so engaged.  
Paul Taylor

These aims and principles underpin all IATL's activities.  
Please see our website for more details on individual activities and projects.

# FUNDING

In its first year IATL distributed a total of £ 167,786 for forty projects across 21 departments in every faculty of the University.

We offer grants for all Warwick staff as Academic Fellowships (to develop or revise a module or course), Pedagogic Interventions (for a one-off event which will enhance teaching and learning) and Strategic Funds for larger projects which address the University's strategic aims.

We offer grants to students under our Student as Producer strand, for performance-based and research projects and Performance Festival bursaries to showcase this work.

We encourage students and staff to work together on research projects with our Collaboration funding.

We aim to keep the application process for IATL funding as straightforward as possible. We want to support you in developing your projects to make them effective and successful. If you are interested in applying for IATL funding, go to our web site [www.warwick.ac.uk/go/iatl](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/iatl) where you can find details of the criteria for each strand and download the application forms.

Submission dates for 2011/12 are:

| Deadline         | Funding Stream   | Available to                     |
|------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 9 September 2011 | Collaboration Fund   | Staff and students               |
| 21 October 2011  | Pedagogic Interventions, Academic Fellowships, Strategic Funding | Staff                            |
| 9 December 2011  | Student as Producer (Performance)                                | Undergraduates and Postgraduates |
| 23 December 2011 | Collaboration Fund   | Staff and students               |
| 27 January 2011  | Pedagogic Interventions, Academic Fellowships Strategic Funding  | Staff                            |
| 31 January 2012  | Student as Producer (Research)                                   | Undergraduate and PGT students   |
| 16 March 2012    | Student as Producer (Performance)                                | Undergraduates and Postgraduates |
| 23 March 2012    | Performance Festival Bursaries                                   | Undergraduates and Postgraduates |
| 5 April 2012     | Collaboration Fund   | Staff and students               |
| 11 May 2012      | Pedagogic Interventions, Academic Fellowships, Strategic Funding | Staff                            |
| 1 June 2012      | Performance Festival Bursaries                                   | Undergraduates and Postgraduates |
| 21 June 2012     | Student as Producer (Performance)                                | Undergraduates and Postgraduates |

## TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODOLOGIES

IATL is not prescriptive about good teaching and learning – it occurs in many forms across the University – but for the last year the 'Open-space Learning in Real World Contexts' project has been hosted by IATL, funded by the Higher Education Academy through the National Teaching Fellowship Scheme. Professor Jonothan Neelands leads this project. There have been a number of outputs including *Open-space Learning: A Study in Transdisciplinary Pedagogy* published by Bloomsbury Academic this year (ISBN 978-1849660549).



## FINDING SPACE FOR YOUR PROJECT

IATL manages a number of open teaching spaces on campus. These are the Reinvention Centre and the Avon Drama Studio on the Westwood Campus and the CAPITAL Studio and Rehearsal Room at Millburn House. All these spaces are bookable for activities that involve teaching which differs from the usual seminar, lecture theatre, or science laboratory. These open spaces have been used for teaching by seventeen departments, including Chemistry, Law, the Business School, English, and Maths, and in sessions for the LDC and the Centre for Student Careers and Skills. Spaces are available for student project and societies outside normal teaching hours. Please see the 'Spaces' section of the IATL website for details of how to book an IATL space.



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