

**Leeds Institute for Teaching Excellence**  
**Teaching Enhancement Project leader**  
**The use and impact of Collaborative Lecture Theatres**  
**(0.2 FTE Secondment, 1 year fixed-term)**

The **Leeds Institute for Teaching Excellence** signals the University's commitment to excellence and innovation in education through its investment in a community of Excellence & Innovation Fellows and Teaching Enhancement Project leaders. This gives academic and professional staff the opportunity to undertake projects to enhance our culture of high quality teaching innovation, scholarship and leadership.

This secondment is to undertake research to evaluate the impact of the pilot project which has refurbished three traditional tiered lecture theatres to provide innovative digitally enabled collaborative learning spaces. These rooms will be used for the first time in Semester 1, 2016/17 and this evaluation will help to understand their impact and potential for delivering high quality student education. As such, this project provides a major opportunity to shape the provision of learning spaces across the campus.

### **Role Description**

This secondment will join the growing team of Excellence & Innovation Fellows and Teaching Enhancement Project Leaders in the Leeds Institute for Teaching Excellence. It will be a twelve month 0.2fte secondment, starting in September 2017, with a commitment to deliver outputs beyond that date if the research indicates that is necessary.

As well as fulfilling the research project as outlined below, the post holder will be expected to contribute fully to the dynamism of the Institute's scholarly community, contribute content towards the digital and external-facing profiles of the Institute and act as an ambassador at internal and external events. As a TEP leader you will also be expected to disseminate the project findings internally and externally to develop the practice, pedagogy and reputation of student education at the University of Leeds.

It is anticipated that the role of TEP leader will develop and deliver projects which will enable them to develop their leadership role in student education in their school, unit or service.

### **Project Outline**

The Leeds Institute for Teaching Excellence is committed to researching and evaluating teaching innovation, its pedagogic justification and its impact on the student and staff experience. The refurbishment of the three teaching and learning spaces which are the subject of this project is ripe for evaluation, both in terms of the local impact it has on the Leeds Curriculum and the broader impact it has in furnishing case-studies of blended learning, collaborative learning and curriculum design to inform estate planning.

The project will seek to evaluate the use and impact of the three refurbished locations from a staff and student perspective. The project researchers will be expected to address the following themes of analysis:

- The expectations of staff and students in relation to the spaces before they were used

- The extent to which teaching staff adapt their module and programme design to the new capabilities of the refurbished spaces
- The impact of the spaces on teaching methodology, experience and reflection
- The impact of the spaces on student learning behaviours (including collaborative work and the use of digital learning materials)
- The impact of the spaces on student satisfaction, learning outcomes and achievement
- The influence of the spaces on uses of online learning technology and resources (both in class and out of class)
- The impact of the spaces on future module and programme design
- The use of the spaces by students as study, learning and collaborative spaces beyond formal 'contact time'

The project research should also include a survey of pedagogy and teaching scholarship relating to the design and deployment of similarly refurbished teaching space in Higher Education, so that the local impact of the pilot is placed in a wider context, geographically and pedagogically, and so that future investment in these spaces is informed by wider evaluation and evidence.

### **Project Funding, Supervision and Timeline**

Stewart Ross (Director of Commercial & Campus Support Services) has provided funding for the evaluation project and will be the project co-sponsor with Professor Neil Morris (Director of Digital Learning). The project will be hosted by the Leeds Institute for Teaching Excellence and its Director, Dr Rafe Hallett will jointly supervise the research with Prof Morris. Support will be provided by other professional and academic staff involved in implementing the CTS pilot project, as necessary.

An evaluation project will utilise, analyse and build on data already captured to review the impact these spaces have had, with the LITE secondment initially working for a year from September 2017 to July 2018.

An interim report after c3 months will focus on a review of scholarship and comparative projects in the HE sector, and offer quantitative analysis of initial use and impact, to inform future design and investment. A more detailed project report after c6 months will focus on the qualitative questions of staff teaching and experience, student learning and behaviour and curriculum design as shaped by the new spaces. It will offer evidence and recommendations to inform future CTS refurbishment projects, as well as reflecting on the most appropriate pedagogies to inform teaching and learning within these spaces.

The project team will comprise the TEP leader supported by a PG research internship (which might be occupied by one or more interns over the duration of the project). The project team will have access to £3k funding to support their research. There will also be opportunities to utilise UG and PG student reps in the survey and evaluation of student learning, behaviour and satisfaction

## **Main responsibilities and duties of the role**

Teaching Enhancement Project leaders will be expected to:

- Fulfil and disseminate the project as described above and outlined in their application
- Produce student education enhancements that complement the vision and priorities of the Institute
- Design their project so that it contributes to the delivery and / or enhancement of the Leeds Curriculum
- Publish / disseminate project outputs within and beyond the University of Leeds
- Contribute to the research and community of the Institute, by offering workshops and conference papers / presentations
- Help foster a dynamic community of debate, interaction and collaboration at the Institute
- Act as LITE ambassadors at Learning and Teaching and Pedagogy conferences
- Contribute to the Institute's publications and to its digital showcase and communications, offering an online profile, project updates and case-studies and contributions to online blogs and news where relevant
- Apply to present project developments, findings and innovations at the University of Leeds Student Education Conference

## **Person Specification**

### ***Essential requirements***

#### *Experience:*

- a minimum of 3 years' experience in a HE teaching or teaching leadership capacity
- experience of teaching scholarship, with involvement in and awareness of, relevant pedagogy and scholarship agendas
- experience of developing innovations or change in learning and teaching at Module / Programme / School / Faculty level
- demonstrable experience of working in partnership with staff and students to enhance the student experience
- experience of reviewing and reflecting on student education provision

#### *Skills/Knowledge:*

- excellent planning, organisational, communication and interpersonal skills
- knowledge of methods of evaluating and reflecting on student education
- the ability and willingness to demonstrate initiative and to take responsibility
- developed awareness of the Leeds Curriculum and of the current strategic priorities of student education at the University of Leeds

#### *Personal characteristics:*

- a sustained interest in teaching innovation and scholarship
- a commitment to improving student education at the University of Leeds
- an organised and methodical approach to project development and dissemination
- a flexible approach and a willingness to balance commitments and duties

## ***Desirable requirements***

### *Experience:*

- teaching and/or facilitating student learning in a diverse range of physical spaces
- development and application of blended learning in their own teaching
- involvement in student education projects in Higher Education at School or Service level (eg the Leeds Curriculum, HEA, JISC)
- involvement in Faculty/School Student Education Committees or University student education working groups
- experience of fulfilling and reporting on an educational enhancement or teaching innovation project
- evidence of disseminating outputs related to teaching innovation / scholarship

### *Knowledge*

- Knowledge of teaching scholarship / pedagogy
- Understanding of and networking with cross-institutional bodies dedicated to teaching innovation and pedagogy

## **Application process**

Candidates should complete the online application form at <http://jobs.leeds.ac.uk/LITEI1006>. As part of your application please upload a document with your project proposals under the headings:

- Project outputs (500 words)
- Methods of student and staff consultation (200 words)

**Candidates are expected to discuss the secondment and workload arrangements with their manager and/or Head of School prior to making an application.**

**The deadline for application is Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017.**

**Interviews will be held before the end of March 2017.**

**Informal enquiries may be made to Dr Raphael Hallett, Director of LITE  
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