DCU Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath Dublin City University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Newsletter

Issue No.02

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

We are delighted to bring you the second edition of the HSS Faculty Newsletter!

As we officially conclude Semester 1 and the campus atmosphere shifts to the focused intensity of the exam period, this newsletter arrives at a moment of transition, a time to both reflect on a busy term and look ahead to the crucial assessment phase. With a little splash of fun thrown in too (keep reading!)! (Please note this message is clipped, don't miss out on any of the fun, ensure you click 'view entire message' at the bottom of the email to ensure you don't miss out on our competition)!

Best regards,

The Faculty Marketing & Student Recruitment Team

A Message from the Dean

Professor Derek Hand
Executive Dean

Dear Colleagues,

As the first semester comes to a close, I want to thank everyone for all your dedication and commitment in and out of the classroom throughout this past year. Ruth, Gezim, Michelle and Padraig will outline the numerous successes and achievements colleagues have made in Teaching and Learning, Engagement and Research, as well as the challenges of implementing the new SIS system.

A really clear indication of those accomplishments, for me, was the impression made at the recent Open Days. Both days saw many prospective students attend, ask questions, and listen to talks. It was wonderful to see colleagues from every school and discipline in the Faculty happily and enthusiastically answering queries and telling potential students about our numerous programmes. Our strong sense of who we are and what we value is something to be very proud of.

I encourage colleagues to come along to T & L, Research and Engagement events organised by the Faculty. As the most diverse Faculty in the University, they are a great opportunity to connect, share information, and build our sense of community.Finally, I would like to once again thank our Faculty Administrative colleagues for all their hard work, especially as the new banner system continues to be rolled out.

Best wishes,

Derek

As we approach the end of the year, it is the ideal time to reflect on our collective research achievements. Thanks to your hard work and dedication, we have produced world-class research with both national and international impact. We have demonstrated our agility to thrive in the rapidly evolving research landscape, as evidenced by increased success in securing highly competitive research funding at the national and European levels, publishing hundreds of journal articles in top-ranked outlets, contributing to scholarly debates through impactful research, and engaging in policy-shaping debates.

This semester, we have supported over 70 small research projects through our Faculty's research support schemes, which will promote our research through conference presentations, journal articles, books, creative outputs, and special issues. The schemes demonstrate our ability to conduct high-quality research despite limited resources.

While we remain committed to contributing to the University's research priorities, one area where we could make an immediate impact is promoting open research. So please consider depositing your author-accepted manuscripts (journal articles and book chapters) in the DCU Research Repository (DORAS).

Go raibh míle maith agat!

Gëzim

Thank you all for everything you have done to support student learning over the past semester. Many Faculty colleagues have also been engaging in T&L related professional development, including the digital badges in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and GenAI for Teaching and Learning, and the Advance HE supported journey.

This year has seen extensive engagement with educational research/Scholarship of Teaching and Learning across the Faculty.
Recent publications include articles on everything from historical fiction in third-level history education to language teaching and ideological tensions.
We will be featuring these and more publications and links on our Faculty webpage soon - and please keep me up to date if you have new T&L publications to celebrate and include.

If you are interested in developing ideas for SoTL publication, one possible avenue may be the EdTech 2026 conference which will be held here in DCU next June. Presenters will be encouraged to publish in the Irish Journal of Technology-Enhanced Learning.

While we aim to encourage positive student engagement, for times when things don't go as planned, this Thursday morning (4 December) our short Academic Integrity Workshop provides

an opportunity to share experiences and learn about the local and university disciplinary processes.

Please sign up here for catering purposes.

Thanks to your collaboration, SSOT response rates across the faculty have increased significantly.

The Dean of Teaching and Learning has been actively listening to feedback and making changes to improve the process. Key resources are available at the SSoT Tile on TALL Space. It's important to hear from our students and it is also heartening to get those nuggets of positive feedback to bring light on a rainy day.

Wishing you a restful break.

Ruth McManus, ADTL

DCU held our 2025 Open Days on November 14th and 15th at the Glasnevin and St Patrick's Campuses over the two days. This is a key engagement point for DCU. Open Days are important to us as our Faculty academic and professional staff get the opportunity to talk to prospective students and their parents and guardians. It is a crucial time as 5th and 6th year students start to focus on academic courses at careers ahead of their Leaving Certificate exams.

DCU received good news on our global reputation recently, moving within the top 300-350 universities in the world in the Times Higher Education (THE) 2026 Rankings, our highest place ever. In addition, we ranked highest in Ireland in the category of Research Quality.

The QS Ranking system delivered further positive news, placing DCU within the top 6% of institutions worldwide in the 2026 Sustainability Rankings and Number One in Ireland for Environmental Sustainability. Our Faculty contributes quite significantly to the university's research and sustainability agendas.

Some of the impact that the teaching and research from FHSS has on society was showcased at the Open Research for Global Impact event organised by our Open Research group at DCU on October 15th. All five faculties were represented with key interdisciplinary work showing public involvement. Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge was well-represented with the Meitheal Dúchas project on how half a million pages of local history and folklore were transcribed to Irish by volunteers, and Terminologue, a cloud-based, open-source terminology management tool. A School of Law and Government / School of Electronic Engineering joint project on data solutions for understanding and improving indoor environmental quality in social housing was also showcased. Colleagues are reminded to think about nominating staff or students for the President Award for Engagement which celebrates the impact of engagement with the wider community around DCU, with a closing date of February 6th. Nominate a colleague here.

In terms of careers and placements, students eligible for INTRA will be notified via email in over the coming weeks with details on how to upload their CV to the INTRA system. Students who wish to apply for INTRA will be required to upload their CV by their assigned deadline.

If it is not too early to do so, may I wish our Faculty a happy and peaceful Christmas with a well-deserved break!

Best regards,

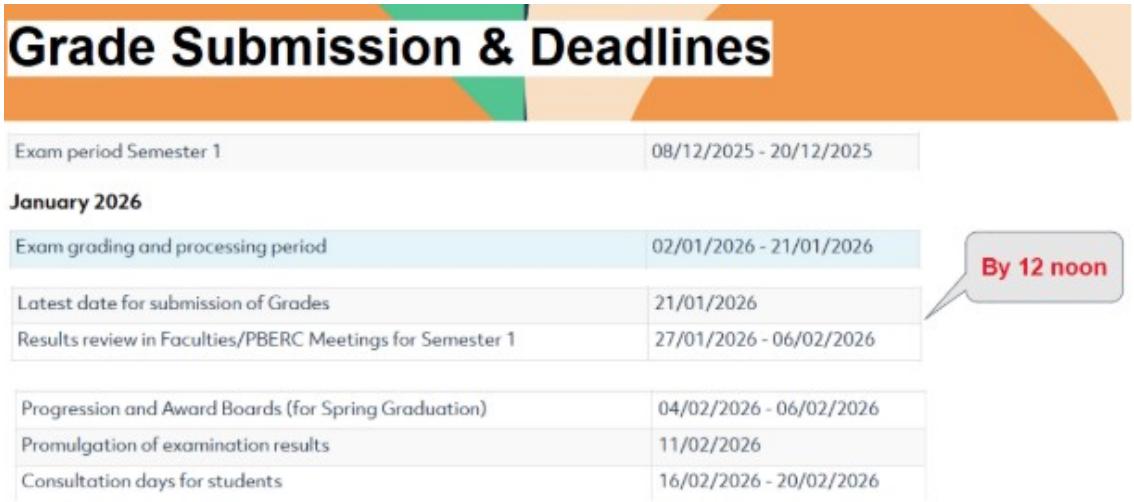
Pádraig

Semester 1 Assessment and Progression Deadlines

The deadline for submission of the Semester 1 results is 12 noon on Wednesday 21st January 2026. This is a hard deadline so the Faculty can proceed to the next stages of result reviews and prepare broadsheets to be considered by the PBERC or PAB.

You can commence entering results via Faculty Grade Entry (FGE) from 8th December 2025 if you have continuous assessment/coursework results finalised. Please check you have access to your modules in FGE today!

In this diet, PABs will only be held for Exchange and Occasional students taking only Semester 1 modules and any requested Exit Awards. Your school Programme Administrator will be in touch with specific dates for the PBERC or PAB.



Hotdesking

The faculty have completed the rollout of the new hotdesking software 'Skedda' and are pleased to advise that a staff hotdesk room, GLA.C214, is now available on the GLA campus for staff visiting from the St. Patrick's and All Hallows campuses. The relevant school staff have received the booking link and a few colleagues have already availed of this resource. Access to this room is via swipe card, and your staff ID card must be activated in advance. To have your card activated please complete this google form.

The new hotdesk booking system, Skedda, has also been implemented in the following rooms for the postgraduate research students:

GLA.C214
SPD.D328
AHC.SG08

LinkedIn Learning

A reminder that staff have access to a wide range of training materials through LinkedIn Learning. DCU covers the full cost of this resource and you are encouraged to take advantage of any courses that you find useful or interesting.

AI Tools

On 17th November Ger Cannon, DTS, facilitated a session on AI tools for professional staff. Feedback was very positive and you can view the slides here which outline the use of authorised AI tools at Dublin City University (DCU) and emphasizes the importance of using these tools securely. It highlights DCU's AI background, including its position statement, acceptable usage policy, AI literacy course, and DTS help resources. The document lists authorised AI tools such as Zoom AI, Microsoft CoPilot, Gemini, and NotebookLM, explaining their features and benefits. It stresses the risks of using unauthorised AI tools, particularly regarding data security, and promotes the use of DCU-authorised tools to ensure data protection.

Additionally, it provides examples of AI applications, such as content generation, manipulation, retrieval, and code generation, and offers tips for effective AI usage, including prompt writing. Specific features of tools like Zoom AI Companion and NotebookLM are detailed, showcasing their utility in tasks like meeting summaries, study guides, and FAQs.

Module Descriptors

The recent email from Teresa Fagan, ASU, notes the 2025/2026 Module Descriptors will be available to both Staff and Students via Staff Apps Page and Student Apps Page or at this link: https://modspec.dcu.ie/registry/module_list_banner_akari.php. Modules can be searched using either the 'Module Code' or 'Module Title'. If you find that your module has incomplete data from Coursebuilder, this may be a result of:

- Your Module having a status of 'Draft/Pending Approval/Reviewed' for Academic Year 2025/2026 - please login to Coursebuilder to finalise these with your Teaching & Learning Convenor/ADTL
- Your Module within Coursebuilder does not have information within these sections - please login to Coursebuilder to complete these and follow the approval process with your Teaching & Learning Convenor/ADTL
- Your Module does not have a 2025/2026 version in Coursebuilder - please login to Coursebuilder to complete these and follow the approval process with your Teaching & Learning Convenor/ADTL

Michelle

Important Update: Curriculum Submission Deadline Change

Please note a change to the deadline for the submission of curriculum changes for the 2026/27 Academic Structures. The new submission deadline is Tuesday, 6th February 2026.

Please also be reminded that the sign-off for modules offered to the following groups will take place at the Spring School Teaching Meeting:

- Exchange and Occasional students
- AFU

- GTEs

Please ensure your submissions are prepared accordingly.

Thank you for your attention to this important timeline.

16 Days of Activism

From the 25 November 2025 to the 10th December 2025, DCU is taking part in the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-based Violence. DCU created a calendar of tasks, training and events and if you have not already done so, there is still time to sign up to the Back to Basics: Dignity and Respect Training [Online] on Tuesday 9th December.

The campaign will end on Wednesday, 10th December with a walk around Albert College/Hampstead Park (Slí na Sláinte route, 1.8 km).
To show your support, you can pick-up an orange ribbon to wear for the duration of the campaign. You can find these on a number of places across campus. Together, we can make a difference to tackle digital violence against women and girls. Register here and join us for the 16 days of activism walk on Wednesday 10th December: https://www.dcu.ie/people/16-days-activism-walk

Worth Celebrating

📣 **Dublin City University has risen to its highest ever position in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.** 📣

DCU is now ranked within the top 350 universities in the world, number one in Ireland for research quality, and number 138th in the world.

🌟 The DCU Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Dean's Honours List 🌟

The DCU Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) recently hosted its annual Dean's Honours List ceremony, a joyous occasion celebrating the exceptional achievements of our graduands and their families.

As part of the DCU Student Recognition Framework, this prestigious list honours students who have ranked in the top 5% of their class. Each recognised student received a commemorative Dean’s List pin in acknowledgement of their outstanding academic dedication.

The celebration was captured with photos and testimonials, which are now featured on the online prospectus, successfully shining a light on the high standards and success stories within the HSS Faculty. Congratulations to all our high achievers and to our academics who helped get them there!

This story is pure inspiration, and frankly, we can't get enough of it! 🎉

Huge congratulations to James O'Reilly, the 82-year-old Dubliner who graduated from DCU with a fantastic 2.1 Honours Degree in English and History. His journey, which started as a way to find purpose after the death of his wife and honor a lifelong passion, proves that it is genuinely never too late to chase a dream. A brilliant achievement and a powerful reminder to all of us that the best time to start learning is always now. What a legend! Read his story here.

Heritage in Motion 2025 🎉

Congratulations goes to Celeste McNamara in the School of History & Geography, who has been recognised at the Heritage in Motion 2025 awards. Celeste was part of the now award-winning HistoryCity initiative

Tell us Your Story!

👋 Thank you for engaging with us so far! Your input is helping us refine our process to support you better.

To make this as quick and effective as possible, here are our Top Tips:

- Complete the Form: Please fill out all relevant sections of the Google form.
- Ready-to-Post Text: Crucially, provide the exact text you want us to post.
- Choose Your Channels: Clearly indicate where you want the promotion to appear (LinkedIn, X, or Faculty News & Events pages).
- Include Media: If you have a flyer, please attach it to the form. We also welcome other media (videos or images) in .png or .jpg format.
- Give Us Notice: We need at least one week's notice for time-sensitive events.
- Don't Forget Links: Make sure to include any RSVP or booking links if they are required.

Please note: While we aim to promote all submissions, due to high demand and time constraints at certain times, promotion cannot be guaranteed. The sooner you submit, the better your chances!

If any essential information is missing from the form, we sadly won't be able to proceed with the promotion. :(

We look forward to sharing your event!

Follow us on Social Media!

📢 **Don't Miss Out! Follow the Faculty on Social Media - we are 'sleighing it' right now!**

This is a friendly reminder to all staff to follow our Faculty's official social media accounts across all platforms!

Staying connected with our social media presence is a fantastic way to keep up-to-date with the latest news, events, achievements, and opportunities happening within our Faculty. We regularly share:

- Research articles and publications.
- Student successes and projects.
- Upcoming events, seminars, and workshops.

Your support is invaluable in amplifying the Faculty's reach. We would be grateful if you could also encourage your students, professional networks, and personal contacts to follow our accounts too.

By increasing our followership, we enhance the visibility and reputation of the excellent work being done here, attracting more prospective students, research partners, and engagement with the wider community. Please take a moment today to search for and follow us. A quick share or re-post from you makes a huge difference to our online presence and also puts a big smile on our face!

Leave Requests!

🗓️ Quick Leave Request Reminder

Hi team,

Please remember that all leave requests must be submitted through Core for manager approval before you confirm or book any travel/plans.

This ensures:

- Proper coverage and scheduling.
- Your request is formally recorded.

Thanks for your cooperation!

Fun Corner!

🎉 The Fun Corner is Open! 🎉

Phew! Thanks for sticking with us through the serious stuff. Now that the work is done, we're here to reward the true heroes, those of you who read this far! (Give yourself a gold star!)

Welcome to our brand new, highly intellectual, and extremely necessary... Fun Corner!

For our inaugural edition of the Fun Corner, we're putting your powers of deduction (and ability to recognise baby faces) to the test. Cast your eyes on the following tiny treasures:

Which esteemed members of our faculty are these little ones?

You can enter your guess here. Any correct guesses will be put in a hat and one of you could win a box of chocolates just in time for Christmas!

Image A: **Image B:**

DCU Christmas Social

Last, but not least, we just wanted to say that we are really looking forward to seeing you all at the DCU Christmas social on December 11th! It will be great to catch up with everyone. Christmas jumpers are optional, but strongly encouraged for maximum festive fun! See you all there!

P.S. Rumour has it, someone from the faculty will be singing at the event....who could it be?! 🎤

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