Supervising Undergraduate Projects and Dissertations

Module Code: TBC

Aim: The aim of this module is to:

- Examine the nature, dimensions and key issues of research supervision with a focus on learning, research and communication processes through a literature review and case studies;
- Construct an innovative and working model of research supervision; and
- Develop a practical supervision plan on the basis of the model with an intent to improve quality, effectiveness and productivity of undergraduate research supervision.

What will I learn?

Upon successful completion of this module, participants should be able to:

- Have greater self-awareness of own conceptions of undergraduate research and supervisory practice, contextualised by critical engagement with salient and emergent issues in own field of research
- Understand what constitutes a productive undergraduate research learning environment
- Appreciate a range of good practice approaches to undergraduate supervision
- Extend their own repertoire of undergraduate supervisory strategies and procedures for supervisors and research students, including ethics requirements
- Know institutional requirements and procedures for undergraduate supervisors and research students
- Practice evaluating their efficacy and competency in undergraduate research supervision
- Enhance their competency in interactional and communication skills e.g. negotiation, giving feedback which is supportive and challenging
- Enhance their understanding and leadership skills for the facilitation of learning in one-to-one and group settings
- Experience and become familiarity with, the range of IT mediated communication strategies for supervision on/off campus e.g. chatrooms, discussion groups, email
- Critically review the literature on the scholarship of undergraduate supervision pedagogy and of relevant policy issues in undergraduate research supervision
- Have up-to-date knowledge of expectations of stakeholder groups and strategies for maintaining dialogue in undergraduate research supervision

How will I learn?

A variety of activities will be used for exploration of key supervisory issues. Role plays will capture the immediacy of experiential learning, surfacing not only implicit thinking and assumptions about supervision but also hidden feelings and emotions. Small group work will allow supervisors to reflect on their own practice, share their thoughts within a smaller group of colleagues and then consolidate these ideas and strategies with the whole group. The use of rounds also will allow every participant's perspective to be aired and validated. Case studies and videos will serve to raise particular supervision issues and provoke lively discussion. Brief interactive exercises will be used to create a friendly atmosphere that is conducive to sharing perspectives. The online component of this blended delivery module, offered through Webcourses, will be available anywhere, anytime. Guest tutors from within DIT and other HEIs will be invited to join both the f2f and online discussions in the module to provide wider perspectives to undergraduate supervision.

When?

An induction session will take place in Sept/Oct 2014 to prompt the reflection on practice process that lies at the heart of this module. A further three x 3 hour face to face tutorials will be scheduled over semester 1 up to the end of January.

How will I be assessed?

The module will be assessed by one written assignment. Each participant will be required to write a paper of circa 4,000 words in length on a relevant topic to be negotiated with the tutor.

Are there any pre-requisites? No specific pre-requisites but an interest in the undergraduate research supervision process is assumed.

How do I apply? Complete the application form available online from the LTTC website:
http://www.dit.ie/lttc/programmes/shortcoursescpd/