



EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The School of Education and Professional Development offers an exciting and diverse range of courses at postgraduate level including Masters and PhD programmes.

These include specialist courses in Education Management, Social Personal and Health Education, Primary Science Education, and Teaching and Learning in Further and Higher Education. These courses provide progression routes for graduates of undergraduate courses in Education, Community Education and Development, Adult Education and Adult Literacy and to practising teachers seeking accredited continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities. Furthermore, the School of Education and Professional Development offers an extensive part-time adult education portfolio.

The School of Education and Professional Development is also a leading research centre, with an extensive range of national and international partnerships and plays a key role in debates on education policy and practice in Ireland. Many of the School's staff are actively engaged with international partners in Europe, China, Newfoundland and Russia.

The School of Education and Professional Development offers a vibrant, stimulating environment where national and international students contribute to the intellectual community of the School.

CONTACTS

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"Some of the best things about postgraduate study in WIT, is the style of teaching, it is a comfortable and free environment."

Juan He,
Masters in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education



RESEARCH GROUPS/CENTRES

Continuing Professional Development of Teachers

Ms. Mary Fenton E: mfenton@wit.ie

Literacy Development Centre

Ms. Geraldine Mernagh E: gmernagh@wit.ie



FURTHER RESEARCH AREAS/TOPICS

Adult Guidance

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Education Management

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E-Learning

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Entrepreneurship Education

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Innovative Models of Course Delivery

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International Education

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Problem Based Learning

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Recognition of Prior Learning

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Philosophy of Education

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Continuing Professional Development of Teachers

The School of Education and Professional Development is to the fore in the provision of postgraduate courses to educators across the spectrum of education to meet their CPD needs including:

- Masters in Management in Education
- Postgraduate Diploma/Masters in Teaching and Learning in Further and Higher Education
- MSc in Education (Primary Science)
- Higher Diploma in Social, Personal and Health Education
- Masters in Social, Personal and Health Education

These courses are delivered in part-time mode in WIT and other outreach centres and some are delivered in blended mode i.e., using a combination of traditional face-to-face and e-learning methodologies. The Postgraduate Diploma/Masters in Teaching and Learning in Further and Higher Education is also delivered in full-time mode and caters for both national and international students.

As part of these courses, students are required to undertake research, which contributes to their own professional practice and to the field of education research.

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Literacy Development Centre

The key research areas within the Literacy Development Centre include:

- Adult Literacy Teaching Methodologies
- Teacher Training programmes for Adult Literacy Practitioners
- Workplace Literacy
- Family Literacy
- Literacy as Social Practice

Over the past three years, the Literacy Development Centre has had a number of on-going funded and in-house research projects addressing the above areas.

An examination of Workplace Literacy training in organisations has been underway since early 2007 and this research is attempting to identify and quantify the benefits of the provision of Workplace Literacy programmes in an organisational setting. The context for this research is the National Skills for Work initiative and the strategy set out by the Expert Future Skills Group.

An in-house action-research project has also taken place to examine the practice of literacy tutors, their understanding of literacy and how this impacted on their work. Themes explored included to what extent tutors feel consulted about issues such as definitions of learner progress, the voices that count, the value base underpinning the national literacy service and the ownership of literacy.

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