



Re-imagining our curriculum
Consolidating the First Year Experience

Prototype Project Updates:

January 2016

General Details	
Project Title	Peer Mentor Programme for Yr 1 Management Students at ITT Dublin
Name of Main Applicant	Elizabeth Downes
Position Held	Lecturer in Management AND First Year Class Tutor
College	Institute of Technology Tallaght, Dublin.
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Names of any co-applicants (& colleges they are based in):	
Signed	
Date	
TU4D Theme (Please tick)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Induction/early orientation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First 5,6 or 7 weeks; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peer mentoring <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment and feedback; <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Attributes <input type="checkbox"/> Students/ autonomous self-directed learners, <input type="checkbox"/> Learning spaces – virtual & physical <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Curriculum models	
Summary of Prototype project (max 200 words)	
Project dates	Sept 2015 – April 2016
Main proposed original project outputs for the TU4D (max 100 words)	<p>As a follow up to a very successful pilot Peer Mentor programme run in the academic year 2014/2015, a further prototype project introducing a two semester Peer Mentoring programme, with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Peer Mentoring meetings in Semester 1 • 2 Peer Mentor meetings in Semester 2. • A dedicated full day training session for Mentors • Peer Mentor Project branded t-shirts for the Mentors • Mentor Certificates at the end of the project • Some merchandise for the Mentors to give to first years in some of the Mentoring meetings for e.g. – wall charts (tie in with topic of time management) / stress balls (tie in with student motivation and stress management) etc. <p>The focus of the Two Semester Peer Mentoring prototype project is First Year Management students in ITT Dublin but of course the learnings and successes will be transferrable across all disciplines and institutions.</p>
Project outputs including any	(please include as a list of outputs aligned to TU4D themes, as relevant eg <i>1. Induction/orientation; 2. First 5,6 or 7 weeks; 3</i>

<p>evaluation data (max 300 words, data to be included in an appendix but can be summarised here)</p>	<p><i>Assessment and feedback; 4. Students as autonomous self-directed learners 5. Peer mentors 6. Graduate Attributes 7. Learning Spaces and 8. Alternative Curriculum Models)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Peer Mentoring meetings in Semester 1 - completed on the following topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GETTING TO KNOW YOU AND GETTING ORGANISED 2. WHERE TO GET HELP 3. GETTING TO GRIPS WITH STUDYING AND CAS 4. EXAM TIPS AND PREPARATION • 2 Peer Mentor meetings in Semester 2. –yet to be completed. • A dedicated full day training session for Mentors – Delivered to 16 Mentors on Tuesday October 7th by Katherine Slattery (Peer Mentor Resources) • Peer Mentor Project branded t-shirts for the Mentors (decided not to do) • Mentor Certificates at the end of the project (in design currently) • Some merchandise for the Mentors to give to first years in some of the Mentoring meetings - (Wall charts customised to ITT Management academic calendar distributed) • A number of Meetings / discussions with other Peer Mentor co-ordinators in DIT and ITB completed. <p>The four peer sessions align with the following TU4D themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Induction/orientation</i> 2. <i>First 5,6 or 7 weeks;</i> 3. <i>4. Students as autonomous self-directed learners</i> 4. <i>Peer mentors</i> <p>It is also worth noting, from the Mentor’s perspective and the experience that they have gained, that this programme also aligns with the Graduate attributes theme of TU4D from this perspective.</p>
<p>Lessons Learned (max 200 words)</p>	<p>(Please summarise what you learned from the prototype project that you feel would need to be taken into account within a full project implementation)</p> <p>Lessons learned to date from the ITT Dublin Year 1 Peer Mentor programme are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The absolute importance of the provision of a peer mentor programme for 1st years in order to aid the transition to third level, 2. The value of linking the peer mentor programme to a module already running in order to increase the participation in the programme, 3. The importance of training / constant communication and support for the Mentors provided by the Programme co-ordinator, 4. The importance of carefully recruiting the “right” Mentors, 5. Getting support and understanding from the entire department of the importance of the programme, 6. Getting the balance right between inviting guest speakers to the peer mentor sessions and allowing enough time for “peer mentoring”, 7. Timing and structuring of the Peer Mentor sessions – feedback suggests front loading the sessions in the first month and less frequent as the

	<p>semester continues,</p> <p>8. Exploring the potential for alternative media / platforms to deliver peer mentoring through.</p>
<p>Next stage(max (max 200 words)</p>	<p>If you haven't already done so, how do you plan to evaluate your prototype project (please include at least one evaluation method and nature of data to be provided to the TU FYE working group)</p> <p>As there are two remaining peer mentor sessions to be delivered this Semester, the formal evaluation will not take place until March. However, informal feedback has been received to date which is communicated in the learning outlined above.</p> <p>Formal research will be carried out in April as follows: All Year 1 Management students will complete an online questionnaire to gain their feedback on the programme. Both quantitative and qualitative feedback will be sought. Feedback will be sought on a number of fronts including: evaluation of the peer mentor meetings / relevancy / benefits / drawbacks / suggestions for improvement.</p> <p>All Year 2 Mentors will also complete a Mentor questionnaire to gain their feedback on the programme, the role of the Mentor and suggestions for improvement.</p> <p>It is also intended to gain feedback from all Dept lecturers in terms of their awareness of the programme and the evaluation of the need for a Peer Mentor programme.</p> <hr/> <p>How do you plan to develop /implement your project outputs/findings over the next months? (please reference possible future funding applications and/or change to your practice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two Peer Mentor meetings will be facilitated in Semester 2 • A planned ceremony to award Mentor certificates and mark the end of the programme to be held for Mentors and Mentees and Dept of Management staff. • Given the success to date of last year's programme and the initial positive feedback on this peer mentor programme, it is hoped that a Peer Mentor programme for 1st Year Management students can become a constant programme within the Dept of Management. • Further funding options for future Peer Mentor programmes will be researched in the coming months, • It is also hoped that the approach to the programme and access to support and resources to enhance the programme can be explored and identified.