

Learning About Learning Course Information Sheet

What is the Learning About Learning Pathway?

Learning About Learning, is a 15-credit, Postgraduate course centered on reflective professional practice. It provides an introduction to pedagogical study of learning and teaching, as well as practical support to develop teaching skills. Successful completion of the course leads to Associate Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy.

Is Learning About Learning for me?

Learning About Learning is designed for staff who require pedagogic knowledge of learning and teaching and who can commit to formal study. It is intended for staff for whom teaching and learning is a limited part of their work¹.

We expect that staff undertaking Learning About Learning might be in the following categories (these align with Descriptor 1 of the UKPSF):

- a. Early career researchers with some teaching responsibilities (e.g. PhD students, GTAs, contract researchers/post-doctoral researchers etc.).
- b. Staff new to teaching (including those with part-time academic responsibilities).
- c. Staff who support academic provision (e.g. learning technologists, learning developers and learning resource/library staff).
- d. Staff who undertake demonstrator/technician roles that incorporate some teaching-related responsibilities.
- e. Experienced staff in relevant professional areas who may be new to teaching and/or supporting learning, or who have a limited teaching portfolio.

Do I need teaching experience to undertake Learning About Learning?

¹ Teaching includes (but is not limited to) design and delivery of live sessions (e.g. seminars/webinars, tutorials, lectures, studio or lab sessions); design of learning resources and activities; assessment design, marking and feedback; provision of support for learning (e.g. demonstrating, tutoring, field trip support, tutorial and seminar support); dissertation or project support and supervision; course and programme design, and course and programme leadership.

Learning About Learning is practice-based so you need previous experience of teaching.

Minimum previous experience:

- 30-40 hours FTE teaching experience in any HEI prior to starting the course.

Your previous experience could include: tutoring, demonstrating, supporting teaching and learning, mentoring others in education etc. This previous teaching experience will enable you to understand the theory and practice discussed in the course.

If you do not have the requisite experience please look at the other opportunities provided by the LTA including Getting Started and New to Teaching Network.

Do I need to be currently teaching to undertake Learning About Learning?

Yes, Learning About Learning is practice-based therefore you need to be currently teaching to be able to undertake the assessments and achieve the learning outcomes. Teaching practice accounts for approximately 1/3 of the course.

Minimum current teaching responsibilities:

- 5 hours per week teaching responsibilities for the full duration of the course (1 semester).

If you do not yet have agreed current teaching responsibilities but are likely to do so or if your teaching responsibilities are grouped rather than weekly, please get in touch with the Learning About Learning team to discuss whether the pathway is right for you at this time.

How is the course delivered?

The course is delivered online via the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Students participate in live sessions and also asynchronous activities. This includes **practical micro-teaching sessions** and observed practice to allow the development and enhancement of teaching practice.

How much time will it take to study?

The overall course is 15 credits, this equates to c.150 hours of study as 15 hours of study per week of the course. This is standard practice in higher education. It breaks down as approximately 5 hours scheduled study including live sessions and asynchronous activities, 5 hours teaching practice and 5 hours self-study. You should ensure that you will have sufficient time for your studies before commencing the course.

How does this impact on my workload and probation?

You should discuss your workload with your line manager to see how the course might fit with your other work responsibilities.

It may be that completion of the course is a requirement of your probation. You should discuss this with your line manager.

How long does it take to complete Learning About Learning?

Learning About Learning is taught over 1 semester.

Are there course representatives?

Yes, there are course representatives for the course. These representatives participate in the Staff-Student Liaison Committee.

English Language requirements

If your first language is not English, you have to demonstrate that your English language ability is strong enough to succeed on the course. You will require 6.5 IELTS as stated in the [Heriot-Watt English Language Requirements](#).

LEADS

If you have previously completed the Heriot-Watt LEADS 1&2 programme, you do not need to undertake this course as you should already have Associate Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy.

Progression

Learning About Learning also forms part of the Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning (PGCertTL). The PGCertTL is for staff who have a substantive teaching and learning role. More information on this can be found on the LTA website.

How do I apply?

Application is through completion of an [application form](#). You may also be invited to attend a short interview.

Please email PGCertTL@hw.ac.uk if you require any support to complete the application or if you would like to discuss applying with one of the PGCertTL team.