

As part of our ongoing development of teaching and learning here in CIT the TLU (Teaching and Learning Unit) invites applications from colleagues who are interested in establishing or sustaining an early stage Learning Community. Learning Communities facilitate the exchange of good Teaching & Learning ideas amongst members and across the institute, provide a platform for professional discussions and sharing of practices while also enabling members to influence future CPD offerings and inform emerging TLU plans and activities.

TLU will provide funding for projects led by staff that seek to create and/or sustain a Learning Community. A limited funding resource is now available to support up to 5 Learning Communities within the current year (up to August 31, 2019)\*.

## **The TLU Learning Community Fund is now open for 2019 applicants.**

We are happy to meet with teams/individuals to help develop Learning Communities and also to hear your suggestions and feedback on this initiative.

## **Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, February 1st, 2019.**

\*We anticipate that the development and support of Learning Communities will continue into the future based on the success we have seen with some of our earlier pilots.

# LEARNING COMMUNITY FUND



## **Some useful websites for ideas:**

<http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/may04/vol61/num08/What-Is-a-Professional-Learning-Community%2%A2.aspx>

<http://www.teachingandlearning.ie/>

<https://www.educationworld.com/admin/best-practices-for-professional-learning-communities.shtml>

<http://www.allthingsplc.info/about>

Log onto weblink  
<http://tlu.cti.ie/learning-community-fund-2019>  
for more information and application form.

visit: <http://tlu.cti.ie>  
email: [TLU\\_team@cti.ie](mailto:TLU_team@cti.ie)  
tweet: [@CIT\\_TLU](https://twitter.com/CIT_TLU)



# LEARNING COMMUNITY FUND



<http://tlu.cti.ie/learning-community-fund-2019>

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visit: <http://tlu.cti.ie> email: [TLU\\_team@cti.ie](mailto:TLU_team@cti.ie) tweet: [@CIT\\_TLU](https://twitter.com/CIT_TLU)

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What is a TLU Learning Community (LC)?

A TLU supported Learning Community is a group of at least 5 individuals who work together on a structured basis to share ideas, experiences, new initiatives and approaches to teaching and learning. Their focus is to improve practices and disseminate findings to the wider community of staff and students.

## What is involved in running a LC?

A LC is a relatively informal set up where the participants meet on a pre-arranged basis (e.g. fortnightly), identify priority areas in Teaching and Learning enhancement that require attention within a programme or department(s) and agree on initiating activities aimed at gathering new information or trialling new practices. This work may be supported by TLU expertise/experience or we may be able to direct LCs towards relevant resources.

## What types of activities or practices are undertaken in a TLU supported LC?

These can be varied and are at the discretion of the group but may be focused around gathering information from staff and/or students, introducing a new teaching or assessment practice, upskilling in a discipline specific area of pedagogy, supporting cross disciplinary teaching, learning and/or assessment activities, attending T&L conferences or centres of excellence, etc. Over time, the group can set new agendas and priorities to allow for the natural growth of ideas and themes.



## What kinds of supports are available?

The TLU will assist in helping to initiate and develop a LC including suggesting key areas to focus on from the outset if required. We may also connect you with like-minded individuals and groups who will share ideas, practices and experiences.

## Is a LC time consuming or labour intensive?

These are voluntary and informal groups who largely set their own agendas and timelines. The objective of a LC is to invest a little time and effort initially to develop new knowledge and practices that ultimately make Teaching, Learning and Assessment more time efficient and rewarding within the LC's area of focus/discipline.

## How long do LCs run for?

The purpose of the fund is to build capacity and sustainability within either a discipline specific or cross disciplinary area. Accordingly, we would suggest a simple semester long action plan initially that will promote inclusivity and collaboration. The outcome of this development phase for instance may be the generation of new knowledge, the highlighting of priority areas or the identification of a "best practice approach" within the new LC that is sustainable and supported through future semesters.

## When do they start?

During the period of Semester 2, 2018-19. Where necessary, the TLU will assist and support the work of the LCs in ways that are relevant to each group.

## How much funding is available?

Up to €1,500 per LC initially

## What might the funding cover?

Meeting costs, materials, equipment, software, travel, conference fees, printing, visiting speakers/facilitators fee, etc. Other reasonable requests may also be considered (please note: the fund cannot be used to buy out lecturing time for staff).

## How will you select the LCs that get funded?

Broadly speaking, they will be assessed in terms of how well the set up of the LC is planned, how innovative the Learning Communities are, anticipated numbers of staff actively joining, what impact they might have on teaching and learning, how sustainable and transferable the outputs may be across the Institute.

## How do we apply?

Apply through a short online form available here: <http://tlu.cit.ie/learning-community-fund-2019>  
The deadline for applications is Friday, February 1st, 2019.

## Will we need to report our findings?

Yes. We, the TLU, plan to run a short event at the end of the semester to allow participants to showcase their outputs for other staff members to learn from. We also hope to capture the results collectively from all LCs in a short brochure at the end of the projects.

