

## 23<sup>rd</sup> EAN Annual Conference

2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014

John McIntyre Conference Centre, University of Edinburgh  
Edinburgh, Scotland

### Hidden Potential or Hollow Promise?

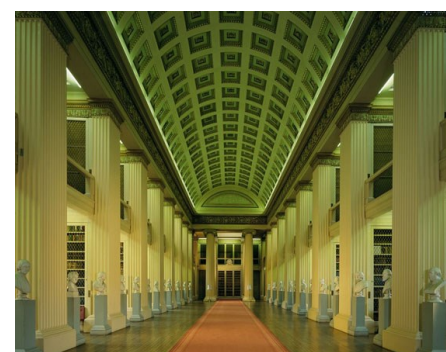
Can Technologies Deliver Wider Access and Success in Higher Education?

Higher education is changing, with the development and application of new technologies driving much of this change. For those of us concerned with achieving wider access and success a key concern is whether these changes can help or hinder our efforts. Can innovation accelerate progress, or will it have no effect or even worse, negative impacts?

New forms of provision and delivery are creating opportunities to participate in higher education such as through the development and growth of on-line courses and programmes and new on-line institutions. These have the potential to open up access to those who might otherwise miss out. But who is able to take up these opportunities? Does access favour the already advantaged? Technologies are also increasingly being used by higher education institutions to support their outreach and recruitment activities, e.g. through the use of social media to connect with potential students, both near and beyond their immediate region. What can we learn from these experiences? Where and how are technologies being used most effectively to widen access? Are these institutions managing to reach people beyond their 'traditional catchments' or do the technologies reinforce existing advantage? We are also seeing growing instances of technologies being used to support students academically, socially and personally during their study, as well as before they arrive at the institution to beyond their graduation. What are the most effective uses? What more could be done? At what point in the student life cycle?

Finally, technologies are changing teaching, learning and assessment. For instance, new teaching rooms look very different from those of the past with live internet connections for research and participation by external individuals or groups and advanced technical facilities to support collaborative group work. Teachers are using technologies to track student engagement more closely. New forms of assessment are being trialled, such as the submission of podcasts. But do these types of changes support or inhibit inclusive practices?

At this conference we will learn about the technologies that are changing higher education now and will do in the near future. We will share what we know already about the effects and impacts of these changes and the best and most effective ways to use technological innovations to widen access and success. We will also look at the development of institutional and government policies to support the kind of changes we seek.



## Speakers include



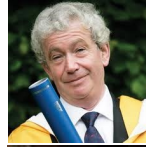
**Rt. Hon. Michael Russell MSP**  
Cabinet Secretary (Minister) for Education  
Scottish Parliament



**Julie Hall**  
Director  
Academic Enhancement  
University of Roehampton, UK



**Albin Wallace**  
Director  
IT & School Development  
The Education Fellowship  
UK



**Prof Sir Timothy O'Shea**  
Principal  
University of Edinburgh  
Scotland



**Prof Maria Slowey**  
Director  
Higher Education Research and Development  
Dublin City University, Ireland



**Mike Feerick**  
Founder & CEO  
ALISON  
Ireland



**Michael Gaebel**  
Head of Policy Development  
European Universities Association, Belgium

## University of Edinburgh



The University of Edinburgh has widening participation at the heart of its agenda and is at the forefront in the design and implementation of a wide range of WP projects and activities. The University is committed to creating and maintaining a diverse community of students and staff, thereby enriching the learning, working and social experience for all and demonstrating its commitment to social justice.

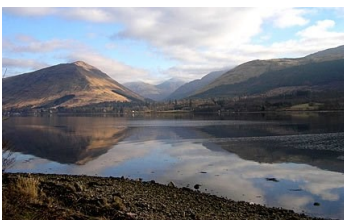
## Call for Proposals

**Submissions focusing on the impact of new technologies are sought in the following areas:**

- Higher education provision and delivery
- Outreach and recruitment
- Student support
- Teaching, learning and assessment
- Policies to support effective change

**Deadline for proposals: March 31<sup>st</sup> 2014. Find out how to apply on [www.ean-edu.org](http://www.ean-edu.org)**

All presenters whose proposal has been accepted will be required to submit a piece on their topic 3 weeks prior to the conference. This piece can be in a variety of forms from the more traditional (a short paper of up to 2000 words, a PowerPoint presentation of up to 10 slides, with or without embedded voice-over), to newer forms such as a short video, 'EANwiki entry' or podcast. Presenters are encouraged to be creative. These pieces will be 'published' by the EAN after the conference.



**Registration opens in February 2014!**

More information will become available on our website soon.

For inquiries, please contact Yana Vlaeva on [yana.vlaeva@roehampton.ac.uk](mailto:yana.vlaeva@roehampton.ac.uk)