

11th Conference of the ICA Network for Higher Education in the Life Sciences¹ (ICA-Edu)

Educating the Net Generation in the Life Sciences

Thursday 21 June 9.00 to Friday 22 June 13.00

to be held during the [ICA Week of Conferences](#) at the
Faculty of Science and Technology, Free University of Bozen – Bolzano, Italy

First announcement – **Call for Contributed papers by 30 April**

Conference Focus

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is playing an ever greater role in the lives of university students, academic staff and administrators. Our students from their earliest years interact with electronic games and by the time they apply for university are internet and IT aware, and social networking is an integral part of their lives.

Jacob Søren Bang (2010)² summarised some characteristics of students of the Net Generation as those who

- want to navigate the world with technology
- are looking for opportunities – and doubt if we are the best to give them that
- prize freedom and freedom of choice
- want to customize things, make them their own
- will check out before they decide
- will look for integrity and openness
- are natural collaborators, who enjoy a conversation, not a lecture
- want to have fun
- expect to be served now

This ICA-Edu Conference will examine how Life Science universities are adapting to these expectations and how they are developing innovative approaches in the use of ICT to deliver their degree programmes and courses.

Academic staff, course and degree programme coordinators, vice-rectors and vice deans for education, learning and technology support staff are invited to participate

Call for Contributed Papers

You are invited to submit an Abstract for a contributed paper for the Conference addressing one of the themes listed below under the heading of the Scope of the Conference. Please send an abstract before **30 April 2012** to Simon Heath (clues@abdn.ac.uk).

1 ICA Network for Higher Education in the Life Sciences (ICA-Edu) was formerly the ICA Standing Committee for the European Conference for Higher Agricultural Education (ECHA). It is proposed to re-launch this Standing Committee at this Conference.

2 Jacob Søren Bang (2010). Targeted recruitment based on knowledge about mega trends and personal involvement. ECHA Conference 2010, University of Zagreb.

Outline Programme

The ICA-Edu Conference is part of the ICA Week of Conferences - see the [outline programme](#).

Keynote speakers

- Vice Rector Barbara Hinterstoisser, BOKU, Austria;
- Christophe Johanns, Communication Office, University of Leuven, Belgium;
- Professor Julian Park, Faculty of Life Sciences Director of Teaching and Learning, Reading University, UK;
- Dr Clive Young, Learning Technology Advisor, University College London, UK.

Scope of the ICA-Edu Conference – submit an Abstract for a contributed paper

Session 1 – Attracting and retaining students before entry to the university

- Course 'tasters' and interactive visits - how do we provide information for students who want to know about the courses on offer and the of jobs that different degree programmes can lead to
- Social networking – can we use Web 2.0 technologies to help find the right students?
- How to attract students for life long learning – post initial graduation

Session 2 – Supporting teaching and learning during the degree programme

A How does technology impact on the delivery of the curriculum in the life science disciplines?

- How technology enables more flexible or blended options for campus-based students?
- Technology supporting distance learning, continuous professional development
- Using and developing open educational resources (OERs)
- Technology impacting on the discipline and how this included in the curriculum
- Using technology to link to professionals and external experts

B How does technology impact on the teaching and learning process, positive and negative effects?

- How videoing lectures can support learning and provide 'active' resources?
- Videoing of excursions and summer schools, and how this can be done at low cost
- Addressing plagiarism,
- Managing communications with students
- Are VLEs being used and deployed effectively?
- Technology- enhanced assessment (e.g. MCQs, e-portfolios, group work)

C What literacy ICT skills should our students leave university with?

- Discipline-specific skills
- General digital literacy skills (e.g. information search, analysis and creation)
- Balancing new and traditional study skills, sustained involvement, reading books, live communication

D How does technology allow us to do things differently?

- New programme structures for flexible and distance learning
- Cooperative delivery between universities – students don't move to different universities to interact with their lecturers at different universities
- Life long learning – reach students beyond the university, short courses to the work place

- Management of the joint delivery of a degree programme across institutions, e.g. Erasmus Mundus Master degree programme
- Use of IT in management of the internal quality assurance process

If you have any questions please contact:

Dr Simon Heath

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