

### PROGRAMME

#### Exploring the opportunities and challenges of mainstreaming blended learning in Life Sciences Higher Education

will be held on Thursday 19 and Friday 20 May 2022  
at the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, University of Ghent, Belgium  
Blok A, Meeting Room A0.1 (Azalea)

#### A Colloquium Focus

The term blended learning is generally applied to the practice of using digital resources alongside in-person learning experiences when teaching students. Blended-learning practices and experiences may vary widely in design and execution. Improvements in both University curricula and learning technology, together with the impacts of the pandemic means that it is a learning mode that continues to gain momentum and usage. Although the debate around the acceptance and effectiveness of blended learning continues, it is clearly impacting at both the strategic and operational level within Higher Education (HE) Institutes.

The overall aim of this colloquium is to explore the opportunities and challenges of blended learning in life sciences HE through institutional, student and lecturer perspectives. The colloquium re-visits some of the themes from the colloquium held 10 years ago in Bolzano, Italy which focussed on “Educating the Net Generation.”

#### B Colloquium themes

**Opportunities and challenges:** review of blended learning development over the last five years, the current state of the art and likely trajectories over the next 5 years.

**Capabilities and expectations** of current students for the delivery of their education experience, particularly reflecting on the blended learning approach. Do students feel well-prepared for a blended approach to learning, does it encourage greater student independence and better prepare graduates for the modern workplace?

**Plenary:** What are the characteristics of robust yet flexible blended approaches in terms of university/faculty strategy and curricula practice for on campus students?

## C Expected Outcomes:

participants will:

- 1) reflect on the opportunities and challenges that the wide-scale adoption of blended learning has highlighted
- 2) evaluate the capabilities, expectations/hopes of and impact on students and staff as the “blended model” evolves in the post COVID era.
- 3) discuss examples of blended approaches in education practice and the potential implications [pros and cons] for both students and staff.
- 4) take lessons from the colloquium about blended learning to identify next steps for ICA-EDU and note any personal actions from the meeting.

## E Colloquium Programme

### WEDNESDAY 18 May

20.00 Reception and Walking Dinner, Klein Turkije 20, Ghent,

### THURSDAY 19 May

9.00 Welcome and Setting the aims of the Colloquium  
Julian Park, Chair of ICA-Edu and University of Reading

**Session 1: Opportunities and challenges: review of blended learning development over the last five years, the current state of the art and likely trajectories over the next 5 years.**

**Session Chair: Julian Park, University of Reading, UK**

9.15 Keynote: Reflection of the developments since the [ICA-Edu Colloquium in Bolzano in 2012](#): Barbara Hinterstoisser, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), AT.

9.45 Keynote: **Fieldwork in Digital Places: learning and teaching behaviours in a Pandemic**  
Lawrie Phipps, Jisc & Keele Institute for Innovation and Teaching Excellence (KIITE), UK

10.15 *Coffee break*

10.45 **Case studies of blended learning interventions in curricula**

1. **Ivica Kos:** Engaging students in collaborative online activities
2. **Janna Pietikäinen:** What does the data tell us about blended learning?
3. **Evelyne De Caluwe:** Lessons learned from the first Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) organized by UGent- FBW within [ENLIGHT](#) [“Interdisciplinary Study of the Climate Neutral City mission”](#)

11.45 Discussion Groups

12.30 Report back

13.00 *Lunch*

**Session 2: The capabilities and expectations of current students for the delivery of their education experience, particularly reflecting on the blended learning approach. Do students feel well-prepared for a blended approach to learning, does it encourage greater student independence and better prepare graduates for the modern workplace?**

**Chair of Session: Marta Mendel, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, PL**

14.00 **Keynote: The student experience of and views of blended going forward**  
Jana Dutordoir, The International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences (IAAS) & University of Ghent.

14.35 **Keynote: Employer expectations for working in the digital world**  
John Giles, Divisional Director, Promar and Genus International

15.10 *Coffee break*

15.40 **Discussion Groups**

16.30 **Report back**

17.00 **Closure**

17.15 **ICA-Edu General Assembly**

20.00 **Colloquium Dinner, De Abt, Lange Kruisstraat 4, Ghent**

**/ continued**

## FRIDAY 20 May

### Session 3: What are the characteristics of robust yet flexible blended approaches in terms of university/faculty strategy and curricula practice for on campus students?

**Chair of Session: Teodor Trasca**, Banat's University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Timisoara, RO

- 8.45      **Keynote: Strategic development of the Blended learning approach at the institutional level**  
Tammy Schellens, Department of Educational Studies, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Ghent University, BE
- 9.30      **Keynote Staff development needs to fully benefit students using the blended learning experience,**  
Liisa Myyry, Centre for University Teaching and Learning, University of Helsinki, FI
- 10.15     **Overviews of university/faculty approaches to mainstreaming blended learning strategies**  
1. Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Stefan Cesco  
2. University of Reading, Julian Park  
3. Wageningen University and Research, Lisa Ploum  
4. Banat's University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Teodor Trasca
- 10.45     *Coffee break*
- 11.15     **Discussion Groups**
- 12.00     **Action Planning related to blended learning – delegates individual plans in relation to blended learning & next steps for ICA-Edu**
- 12.15     **Closure of ICA-Edu Colloquium**
- 12.30     **Plenary Session Report back from ICA-Edu, ICA-Edu SIG and the ICA CoP - Block E Room 2**  
**Address online:** Rector Magnificus Arthur Mol, President of ICA  
**Reports** by the Chairs of ICA-Edu, ICA-SIG and ICA-CoP Bio-Edu of the outcomes of the three Colloquia discussions
- 13.00     *Lunch and depart*  
*There will be the possibility to make up a paper bag of the sandwiches if you need to leave quickly*

## F Conference organising committee

**Julian Park**, Chair ICA-Edu Executive Committee & Former Pro Vice Chancellor Education and Student Experience, Professor of Agricultural Systems, University of Reading, UK

**Teodor Ioan Trasca**, Vice Chair ICA-Edu Executive Committee & Head of the Department of Food Technologies, Banat's University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Timisoara, RO

**Stefano Cesco**, Former Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, IT

**Kristina Kljak**, Vice Dean for International and Interinstitutional Cooperation, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb, HR

**Marta Mendel**, Vice Rector for International Co-operation, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, PL

**Janna Pietikäinen**, Vice-Dean for Academic Affairs, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Helsinki, FI

**Mieke Uyttendaele**, Faculty Director of Education & Internationalisation, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, University of Ghent, BE

**Simon Heath**, ICA Deputy Secretary General

## **G Questions?**

Contact Simon Heath [icasecretariat@ica-europe.org](mailto:icasecretariat@ica-europe.org)