



2012

# Action Research for Educators: Learning Innovation.

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## Recommended Citation

Harding, N., Donnelly, R., O'Keeffe, M., & Russell, M. (2012). Action Research for Educators: Learning Innovation. Poster presentation at *LIN Annual Research Conference, Dublin, 11 October, 2012*.

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# Action Research for Educators – Learning Innovation

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## Collaborative Curriculum Design Project

This special purpose award was designed as part of the LIN flexible pathway to a postgraduate diploma in learning teaching and assessment. The certificate was developed by the AIT Learning and Teaching Unit in conjunction with experts from the DIT Learning, Teaching and Technology Centre with the support of the Learning Innovation Network (LIN).

## Certificate in Action Research for Educators

### Rationale

In contrast to traditional research methods modules which encompass a variety of methodologies, this module focuses on **action research**, and requires participants to engage in a research project linked to their practice.

### Aim

To equip educators with skills to research, reflect and improve their own practice.

### Target Audience

Educators at all career phases seeking to inform their practice through research. Engagement in and reflection on educational research will be promoted through peer-based learning and support activities using a blended approach.

### Pedagogical Approach

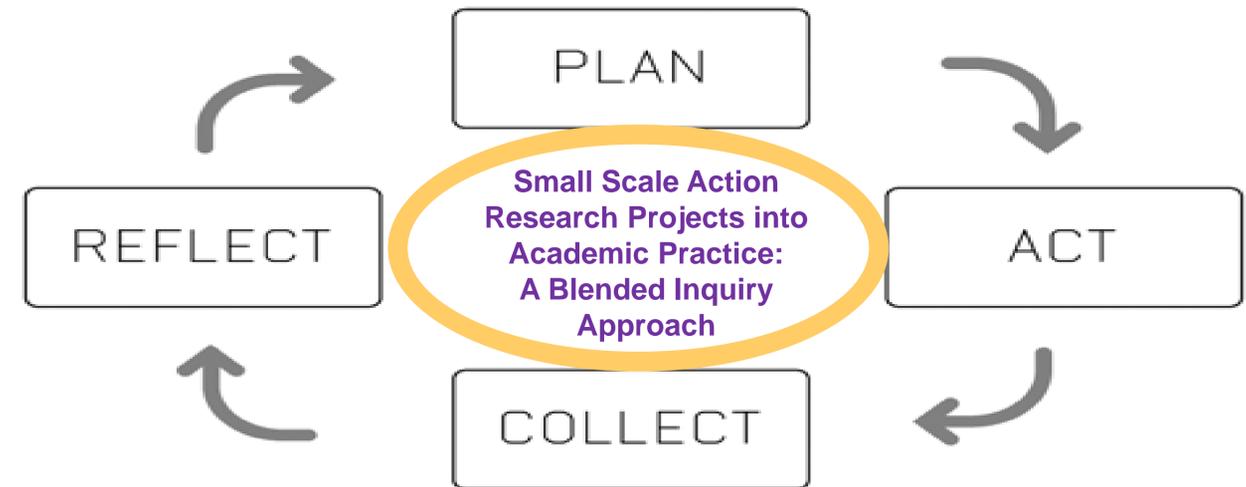
Face to face and webinar sessions will include:

- presentations,
- interactive small group work
- think-pair-share activities
- peer reading and review

Ultimately they will provide the opportunity to network and join a lively debate with fellow educators

### Technology Integration

- Moodle – Research concern; discussion forums; collaboration; peer review
- Adobe connect – Expert presenters
- Turn IT IN – Assignment submission
- ScreenR/Camtasia/Articulate -- Digital Tutorials
- Participants are encouraged to provide evidence using both audio and video recordings



### Student Impact

By conducting small scale discipline specific applied research and using a blended approach the participants will be exposed to digital literacies and have an opportunity to develop their ICT skills and soft skills collaboration. These outcomes in turn will impact on the quality of experience for students (of participants) who will be exposed to a research informed approach.

### Key Project Milestones

#### April – September 2012

- Design and validation of a special purpose award. The validation process was completed in AIT on September 21<sup>st</sup> 2012.

#### September 2012 – June 2013

- Planning the implementation of the pilot which commenced September 28<sup>th</sup> 2012 in AIT. Including the design of a programme handbook, lesson plans and class materials. In addition to the planning of webinars with expert contributors.
- Design and development of reusable learning resources to support the modules.
- Evaluation - programme board, exam-board, student questionnaire, external examiner

#### Initial Student Feedback

“It offers me a great opportunity to share ideas and concerns with my peers and the facilitator”

“It has already had a positive impact on my current teaching – got me into reflective and critical mode”

“It offers a structured framework which I can use to approach my research and build on my idea in a progressive manner”.

“I think I will find the peer support system very helpful.”