HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht's Teaching & Learning Network

The Teaching & Learning Network (TLN) is a HU-wide network that focuses on innovation in education, curriculum development and professionalisation of HU lecturers and researchers. It is an inspiring forum for encounters and discoveries where the HU's lecturers, teams, institutes and researchers can:

- jointly explore and elaborate on education-related questions;
- support each other in research and educational design, practice and assessment;
- support each other in their professionalisation;
- jointly put evidence-informed learning and working into practice within the context of higher vocational education.

The TLN network team comprises some 80 lecturers/researchers, educationalists, e-advisers and other professionals in supportive roles.

High-quality learning environment

Within TLN, HU professionals jointly work and learn across the boundaries of degree programmes, research centres and institutes in stimulating, high-quality learning environments. They can take part in the network's professionalisation, learning and development programmes to work on their personal development and teaching. As a complement to these programmes, they can attend workshops, master classes and inspiration sessions where they learn from each other and encourage and support each other in the development of expertise, innovations in teaching methodologies and other innovations. TLN also serves as a podium for HU professionals to share ideas, expertise and best practices with each other.

Ownership

Lecturers/researchers and teams are owners of their own educational development, innovation or professionalisation and in many cases are the initiators of professionalisation and support activities. The development and professionalisation questions formulated by lecturers and researchers (both individually and within teams) are guiding in TLN's activities. In this context, the TLN network team takes both proactive and responsive action:

- proactive: the TLN network team examines together with individual lecturers/researchers and teams which next step they can take and puts challenging and/or confronting questions to them;
- responsive: the TLN network team identifies new opportunities for joint learning, brings people together and responds to teams' latent needs;
- demand-driven: the TLN network team responds to questions/needs formulated by individual lecturers/lecturer teams and researchers.

Organisation

The TLN network team is made up of some 80 HU professionals who are active in the HU's day-to-day education/research practice and its support. They have up-to-date and substantiated expertise in the field of higher vocational education and research practice at this level. TLN attaches strong

importance to quality and evidence-informed learning and working. The Learning and Innovation research centre (KC LENI) serves as the network's supporting research centre.

- TLN's *core team* consists of expertise leaders, representatives of the supporting research centre LENI, knowledge circulators and a network director.
- The *education and research experts* advise, support and coach teams of lecturers and researchers in the field of educational innovation, development of the curriculum and professionalisation.
- The *expertise leader* establishes connections between members of the network team, serves as a sparring partner for colleagues and encourages professionals to reflect on the learning process.
- The *network director* coaches, encourages, organises collaborations and safeguards and consolidates the TLN business rules and quality.
- The *Basic/Senior Qualification in Teaching Competency (BDB/SDB) Certification Committee* safeguards the quality of the assessments made within TLN. In addition, the committee handles exemption requests and complaints about assessments.
- A broad and varied *TLN programme consultation body*, which is mainly made up of lecturers, safeguards choices and priorities at the strategic level.
- The *supporting research centre* LENI enriches fields of expertise, supports the core team and connects activities within TLN with the HU's three other research centres.

Professionalisation programmes

TLN offers professionalisation programmes, assessments, workshops and master classes that are focused on:
- the development of teaching competency;
- educational leadership;
- practice-based research.

The professionalisation programmes can be both standardised and tailored to specific requirements. Lecturers/researchers can participate both individually and within a team.

Professionalisation in the development of teaching competency

To safeguard the quality of higher vocational education, the HU requires lecturers to prove their teaching competency. This can be done by presenting a previously awarded degree or by completing a number of learning programmes and assessments that allow them to obtain a Basiskwalificatie Didactische Bekwaamheid (Basic Qualification in Teaching Competency, BDB). TLN offers learning programmes for the development of this teaching competency, focused on three core tasks assigned to professionals in higher vocational education: 'Educational Design', 'Educational Practice' and 'Educational Assessment'. Since TLN takes part in a national quality assurance process that allows for mutual acknowledgement, the BDB certificate is recognised by all universities of applied sciences in the Netherlands.

Participants are free to determine how they learn and work on the development of their teaching

competency, and are welcome to contribute their own questions and expertise. They can demonstrate their teaching competency by completing an assessment for each core task or by completing a single integrated assessment.

HU staff members can participate in learning programmes that focus on the development of their teaching competency both as individuals and as a team.

Learning programmes focused on the development of teaching competency

Introductory course for first-time lecturers
Lecturers who have just started working in higher vocational education (hbo) are introduced to the three core tasks assigned to an hbo-level lecturer (Educational Design, Educational Practice and Educational Assessment) and to the specific education environment found at HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht.
Contact: [Contact | TLN (husite.nl)](husite.nl)

BDB programme 'Educational Design'
Participants learn how to design a learning environment for a course (unit of study) and which steps they go through in this process.
Contact: [Contact | TLN (husite.nl)](husite.nl)

BDB programme 'Educational Practice'
Participants develop a broader range of teaching-related actions and work on their professional development as lecturers within higher vocational education.
Contact: anne.khaled@hu.nl

BDB programme 'Educational Assessment'
Participants develop expertise in the field of testing and assessment policy and learn how to design appropriate testing formats. Upon successful completion of this module, the participant is awarded the Basiskwalificatie Examinering (Basic Qualification in Examination Competency, BKE), which is part of the BDB.
Contact: wendy.peeters@hu.nl

Learning programme for Development and Evaluation of Integrated Education
HU staff members learn how to develop and evaluate integrated education in the context of a course (unit of study).
Contacts: loes.vink@hu.nl and marijke.hezemans@hu.nl

Senior programmes (SBD)
TLN also offers senior level programmes for in-depth development and lifelong learning. Lecturers can use these programmes to obtain a Seniorkwalificatie Didactische Bekwaamheid (Senior Qualification in Teaching Competency, SDB). Participants can grow further in each core task (Educational Design, Educational Practice and Educational Assessment) and develop their knowledge and expertise in greater depth. Participants in the senior programme are free to structure their own learning process. That is why these programmes are always developed in co-creation.
Contact for the SBD programme 'Educational Design': corleen.knieriem@hu.nl

Contact for the SBD programme 'Educational Practice': anne.khaled@hu.nl
Contact for the SBD programme 'Educational Assessment': wendy.peeters@hu.nl

Assessments of participants' development of teaching competency

Learning programmes can be completed with an assessment for BDB or SDB certification.
- Assessments for BDB certification: BOO, BOU, BKE and BDB Integraal.
- Assessments for SDB certification: SOO, SOU, SKE and SDB Integraal.

Further information about assessments can be found in the assessment manuals.
You can register for an assessment via the HU development portal and/or SharePoint.

Exemptions
Lecturers can request an exemption for BDB certification from the Teaching & Learning Network's certification committee. This request needs to be substantiated with documentary proof. The mutual acknowledgement of BDB certifications does not apply to exemptions: in other words, an exemption issued by the HU will not be automatically accepted by another university of applied sciences, and an exemption issued by another institution will need to be submitted to the TLN certification committee for re-evaluation.
Contact: certificeringscommissie@hu.nl

Examination Board learning programme

The Examination Board learning programme is a professionalisation programme for members of the Examination Board team and employees with a seat on an Examination Board.
The programme comprises three trainings:

Basic training
A two-day course for new members of an Examination Board.

Training in legal writing skills
Participants train in the writing of effective legal texts.

Training in handling difficult conversations
Participants train specific interview techniques for difficult conversations.

Contact: mathi.vijgen@hu.nl

Professionalisation in educational leadership

Learning programme for project leaders responsible for innovations in education
In this programme, staff members who head an educational innovation project can develop their competences as innovation leaders and learn how to design and elaborate the core tasks associated with this role. The emphasis lies on aspects of change management, and the programme pays attention to both current theory and practice. The learning programme connects with the participants' specific learning requirements and wishes.

The Educational Innovation Learning Lab supports project leaders responsible for managing educational innovation projects. The Learning Lab offers advice and coaching, organises master classes and shares successful innovative approaches via blogs, animated clips, trainings and publications.
More information: https://www.leidersonderwijsinnovatie.nl/
Contact: frederique.dejong@hu.nl

Professionalisation in practice-based research

The professionalisation in practice-based research programme focuses on researchers who work within Research Groups and lecturers who supervise research performed by students and/or perform research of their own. This process of professionalisation focuses on:

- practice-based research in the context of higher vocational education;
- research abilities within a professional context;
- practice-based research and research abilities in hybrid learning environments.

In addition to a starter course for new researchers, TLN offers peer support groups, an 'Efficient Data Management' training and support programmes for HU staff members who consider starting on a doctoral research programme. The network is currently working on programmes in other professionalisation contexts (e.g. research work placements).
Contact: annoesjka.boersma@hu.nl

Guidance and support in the workplace

Tailor-made guidance and support in the workplace

TLN offers lecturer teams and researchers tailor-made support in the workplace, as well as guidance in the development of education and research activities. Examples include questions in the field of teaching or about the implementation of a new innovation in education. TLN supports HU staff members in exploring and elaborating on current question relating to education and research and is able to bring them in touch with expert professionals (within and outside the HU) who can share relevant knowledge and expertise. TLN can also bring the participants in touch with other teams or researchers within the HU organisation who are working on similar questions.
Contact: tln@hu.nl

E-advisers

Individual lecturers and lecturer teams can turn to TLN's e-advisers with their questions about digital teaching aids and testing environments like Canvas, Flipping the Classroom or Test Vision. The e-advisers are up to date on the latest developments in the field of digital teaching methodologies and digital testing. The e-advisers can think along, look along, support staff during work sessions and in-depth sessions and serve as sparring partners.
Contact: tln@hu.nl

TLN contacts

- General information: www.tln.hu.nl or tln@hu.nl
- Information about registering for a programme in teaching methodologies or an assessment: tln-administratie@hu.nl
- Support in connection with questions in the field of teaching, teaching methodologies or research: tln@hu.nl
- BDB/SDB Certification Committee: certificeringscommissie@hu.nl
- Programme consultations: tln@hu.nl
- Supporting Research Centre (LENI): ilya.zitter@hu.nl