



CENTRE FOR ACADEMIC INNOVATION

ABOUT CAI

The Centre for Academic Innovation (CAI) is DMU's hub for developments in pedagogic praxis and associated practical research, leading in supporting and disseminating teaching and learning practice across the university. Operating in both a physical and virtual space, CAI envisions itself as a world-leading centre of pedagogic and academic innovation and excellence with a focus on enhancing and disrupting the learning and teaching experience within DMU and beyond.

CAI promotes academic innovation projects and provides information, advice, and guidance for this and other forms of pedagogical support. CAI explores, supports and facilitates best and next practice in the transformation of assessment, learning and curriculum development. It encourages and facilitates enhancement, engagement, and transformational thinking and activities within the teaching and learning experience, supporting pedagogic innovation and providing leadership.

CURRENT STAFF

Dr Momodou Sallah, Director
Sue Phillips, Personal Assistant
Demi Middleton, Coordinator

RESOURCES

CAI is DMU's main repository of resources promoting teaching and learning excellence and disruption. CAI curates a learning space designed to be flexible, open and engaging; encouraging staff to share and disseminate their practice and explore new methods and opportunities.

Events

CAI runs a number of seminars, conferences and festivals throughout the year to support teaching and learning across the university, with the ultimate objective of enhancing the student experience and generating curriculum currency and curiosity. These include:

DMU Annual Teaching and Learning Conference

This conference brings together our educators, students, researchers and practitioners to exchange and share best practice and pedagogy. It also provides a platform to present and discuss our most recent innovations, trends and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted.

DMU Festival of Teaching

The annual DMU Festival of Teaching takes place in the spring. The Centre for Academic Innovation (CAI) and Library and Learning Services jointly lead the delivery of the project with DMU's Public Engagement Department as a key partner. Festival events take place across places and spaces on campus and in the city. It is a celebration of learning and teaching, a thank you to the city, and a showcase for the talents and passion of DMU staff as they support learning through their vibrant teaching.

CAI Seminar/Masterclass Series

CAI hosts a seminar and masterclass series. The seminars focus on providing a space for academics, students and practitioners to engage in deep conversations about a particular topic over a two hour period in deep and critical ways. The masterclasses are spaces for experts to showcase examples of great practice and transfer skills, knowledge and values to other lecturers. Both of these focus on academic and pedagogic innovation and disruption with internal and externally invited speakers.

Education Leadership

Working with individuals, programmes, departments, schools, faculties and external bodies, we work to address challenges in learning and teaching, and identify innovative pedagogic solutions. We develop and design effective interventions to improve our pedagogic delivery.

Student Action Committee

This group of students have the opportunity to share their views on learning and teaching at DMU and develop solutions to address any concerns they possess. The format is a participatory approach to the co-production of knowledge, with students positioned as both students and teachers in a dialogical process.

CAI Sabbatical Fellowships

CAI initiates and supports fellowships that facilitate the freedom for staff to explore pedagogy more critically, and in a deeper way, in order to develop tools that contribute towards teaching and learning excellence. The CAI Fellowship grants DMU staff a period of two weeks for them to engage in developing a project.

UDL Pedagogy, Assessment and Feedback

In supporting DMU's teaching and learning strategy, CAI is the new home of UDL. CAI works with relevant parties across the university to support the different components of UDL, and to continue to disseminate and embed UDL principles.

Researched Informed Teaching

CAI places research-informed teaching and teaching-informed research at the heart of what it does. This is through supporting individuals and subject groups to recognise the symbiotic relationship between teaching and research, and to develop programmes that enhance teaching and learning across DMU and beyond.

Home of TFs, NTFs and CATE Winners

CAI has set up a community of Teaching Fellows, National Teaching Fellows and CATE winners. Together, they support pedagogy across DMU and beyond through mentoring, seminars, observations, roadshows and other responsive means.

Contact details

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