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Award for Excellence

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Dr Liz Hodges

The Department of Disability Inclusion and Special Needs (DISN) is delighted to announce that Liz Hodges has been awarded this year's Award for Excellence in Teaching or Supporting Student Learning in the School of Education.

Liz was nominated for the award in recognition of the outstanding ways in which she has used innovative practices to enhance the learning experience of students on the programme that she coordinates, and for the dissemination of her practice and expertise with colleagues at both departmental and school level.

Liz teaches in the specialised area of multi-sensory impairment (deafblindness) and the programme is delivered through distance education, incorporating an innovative blend of hard copy and technology enhanced learning activities, for example through the use of mini podcasts to introduce the key concepts of the module that are illustrated through original video material. Obtaining appropriate video material has involved sensitive filming to take account of the highly individual nature of the disabilities of learners with deafblindness.

Liz draws on a range of international expertise to complement her own input in a number of innovative ways, for example by developing a series of online lectures presented by an international contributor, following which students can engage in online 'real time' discussion and benefit from the opportunity to question the speaker and learn from the questions of others.

Feedback from students is consistently positive:

'I have learnt so much and know there is always more to learn!'

'Many thanks for all your hard work and your infectious teaching style – we love it!

Can't wait to learn more.'

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