

Open Video Script

In spring 2008, I was involved with a module on the Postgraduate Diploma in Third Level Learning run by the Dublin Institute of Technology. During this time, the MSc in Applied eLearning was being advertised and I began to investigate the possibility of enrolling on it.

I found that it was a two year blended course concentrating on all aspects of elearning. I had become fascinated with elearning after creating a course website for an eBusiness course and conducted a piece of independent research into its effects within this area. I also discovered that my Institution would pay the course fees.

The course itself was a pleasant surprise. After being involved in Computing and Information Technology since 1980 I did not think I would be seeing anything new. How wrong I was! The majority of the course offered newly emerging technologies and teaching / learning strategies that I had not seen before. I enjoyed the experience of using them and putting them into practice for my students. Some examples: included mind maps, Second Life, wikis, bloggers, WebQuest, online quizzes, educational games, action research, social constructivism and a lot more.

Initially, I thought the course was going to be mostly online, with a few tutorial sessions and was slightly anxious when I discovered it was going to be a blended course. I was not concerned with the teaching aspects of the blended course, but with the practicalities of turning up at my classroom in Dublin, every Tuesday afternoon, while starting my journey from either Roscommon or Athlone. I found that it would cost approximately 60 Euros and required a return journey time of 4 to 6 hours, depending upon traffic conditions.

Overall, I enjoyed taking all the first year modules and could see the logic of taking them. Although I believed that, the logical sequence of some of them could change. I found one subject difficult. However, I (plus my peers) did not think it was the subject matter but the vague instructions that caused the difficulties.

I particularly enjoyed the second year as it was aimed towards my preferred style of independent learning. In my case, I decided to create a Course Website, conduct some research on its effects with the students, create a Journal Paper and produce this ePortfolio.

