

2021 END OF YEAR REPORT





CONTENTS

Changing the way we work and learn	3
Professional learning	4
Our transition to Canvas@AUT	5
Our success so far	6
Reflections and feedback	7
Our direction for 2022	8

CHANGING THE WAY WE WORK AND LEARN

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR BENJAMIN KEHRWALD

Director of Professional Learning/Head of altLAB



“

It has been an amazing year for altLAB. Covid has not slowed us down! We've been able to extend the success we had in 2020 and continue to support AUT's strategic goals around quality teaching and exceptional learning experiences. We expanded our professional learning suite this past year, showcasing good practice at AUT and connecting it to international perspectives on academic practice. We grew altLAB to around 75 members to tackle the transformative work in the Canvas@AUT project. We have enjoyed productive partnerships with all of AUT's faculties as part of our systematic course development process. Around 1000 courses were developed this year and we are looking forward to 2022 and going live with Canvas.”

“

2021 was a year of consolidation and growth for altLAB. We expanded the professional learning suite, and brought global research and practice in Higher Education to AUT; all while elegantly navigating an extended re-entry into fully online teaching, and the once in a generation LMS Curriculum Enhancement project. Canvas is poised to be the heart of our digital learning environment from 2022. It's been inspiring to see the collaborative nature of our Academics, Learning Designers, Learning Technologists and Digital Media Specialists work together to create what we know will be a coherent and engaging student experience.”

PROFESSOR GAYLE MORRIS

Pro Vice Chancellor Learning and Teaching



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

This year we expanded our Professional Learning Suite to a total of 45 offerings, plus some repeat requests of popular sessions, and included two new streams.

Advanced Educational Practice provided colleagues with opportunities to extend their academic practice in assessment, place-based teaching, leading and scholarship. While **Global Perspectives in Educational Practice**, connected the AUT community to leading scholars across the globe.

We continued to run our **Foundations in Educational Practice**, AUT Essentials and AUT Essentials+, to help staff meet the challenges of teaching for the first time. As well as our **Technology Enhanced Educational Practice** stream, which introduced colleagues to how technologies can enhance their teaching and support learners, and monthly Panopto drop-in sessions to support colleagues to up-skill.


ACROSS THE SUITE, OUR TOP SESSIONS WERE:


1. Defining scholarly teaching and the scholarship of teaching
2. **BY DESIGN: A deeper dive into enhancing learning through curriculum design**
3. Experiences of designing ethical Tiriti-honouring teaching
4. How are my students progressing in my course? - Tips & tools to help you find out
5. Enhancing learning and teaching with Adobe Spark



GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES IN EDUCATIONAL PRACTICE

 **HONG KONG** - Feedback Literacy for Digital Futures
Professor David Carless, The University of Hong Kong

 **LONDON** - Learning from the Simulated World: How lessons from Healthcare Simulation can change Higher Education
Dr Gabriel Reedy, King's College

 **DENMARK** - PBL and Networked Learning - Students' use of digital technologies for collaboration
Professor Thomas Ryberg, Aalborg University

 **SCOTLAND** - Seamful Design in Education
Dr Tim Fawns, University of Edinburgh

90



ATTENDEES ACROSS
AUT ESSENTIALS &
AUT ESSENTIALS+

OUR TRANSITION TO CANVAS@AUT

Throughout 2021 our Canvas@AUT team worked in collaboration with key stakeholders, across AUT, to successfully transition to our new Learning Management System: Canvas. Together, we committed to enhancing students' learning experiences and improving our learning resources, curricula and the quality of our teaching.

A TEAM APPROACH

Course development cycles are at the heart of Canvas@AUT. Within each cycle courses underwent a systematic course development process. Our course development team of Learning Designers, Learning Technologists and Digital Media Specialists worked collaboratively with Course Leads to develop digital materials for Canvas.



GOOD PRACTICE

Our foundational documents helped inform the design and development of Canvas courses. AUT Canvas Principles underpin the AUT Canvas Threshold and Course Templates, and provide a baseline from which staff can further develop their use of Canvas to enhance their teaching and students' learning.

ONGOING LEARNING

To further support staff with their learning we established a collection of resources including introductory videos, self-paced training modules, a webinar series, downloadable resources and individual practice sandboxes.



OUR SUCCESS SO FAR

This transition has been an enormous undertaking yet a rare opportunity to transform the AUT learning experience. We are incredibly proud of the progress we have made and the milestones we have achieved.

PLANNED & PREPARED

We scoped out the project, defined our processes and established documents to inform the design and development of Canvas courses at AUT. We expanded our team to include 50+ Course Development Specialists, a Project Manager, Change Manager and Project Co-ordinator.

STREAMLINED OUR PROCESSES

During each cycle we gathered feedback from Course Leads and our Development Team. This was invaluable in helping us adapt and improve our processes and focus on building content more efficiently.

COMMENCED COURSE DEVELOPMENT

On April 27 2021 we commenced the first of our six development cycles and started to transition courses to Canvas.

PUBLISHED CANVAS@AUT TRAINING

We provided a variety of training resources to support staff in maintaining the courses we are building in Canvas and curated excellent examples of work from each cycle.

COUNTING DOWN TO CANVAS

As we close in on the year, we celebrate the progress we have made and the way we have worked together. We are well on track for our go-live in Semester 1 2022.

LAUNCHED FIRST PILOT

In November 2021 we launched and delivered our first pilot course, GEOL801 – Environmental Hazards and Society, to 21 students.

REFLECTIONS AND FEEDBACK

As a service entity, we value the feedback of our colleagues to help inform how we can best transform learning and teaching at AUT.



"The team is dual teacher and student focussed. So importantly, as well as seeing their role to facilitate my needs, they are also focussed on how to transform the course page into a format that students can navigate through easily. At every stage the development team was clear that they were here to facilitate what I wanted to achieve for my students."

"We are collaborating with Course Leads who are passionate about teaching and **creating exceptional learning experiences** for our students. We discuss ideas and possibilities for their courses and consider what approaches are best to deliver content and scaffold learning. Our work is helping to bring their visions to life on Canvas."

"Succinct and well planned, interactive education sessions. **Staff from altLAB were great** and knowledgeable."

"I enjoyed how the [Professional Learning] session incorporated the different teaching strategies that we were learning – thank you for the wonderful session."



"I have a much better understanding about the complexities involved in large projects and have a better appreciation of the roles people need to play to make a project work."

"Teamwork, collaboration, passion, humour, design thinking, problem solving and, on most days, a sense of being involved in truly meaningful work!"



"Maintaining communication channels between team members and Course Leads and working hard at **empowering everyone** to bring their skillsets to the table."

"Some great working partnerships with colleagues where my contribution was recognised as valuable."



"Very well delivered, organised & prepared. Content is very relevant to my role and **supports my teaching** in contemporary education."

"**Engaging teaching** and lots of good ideas to apply in my course."

"It is with great joy and satisfaction that I write this note to **thank and give credit to the Canvas team** that supported me in the transition from Blackboard to Canvas. I am very grateful to AUT for making such a smart, experienced, knowledgeable and dedicated team available to me. I am **hugely impressed by the dedication**, customer-centric orientation, and commitment to a) serve AUT's strategy, b) the lecturers' (me in this case), and c) the students' learning experience."

OUR DIRECTION FOR 2022

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SUITE



2022 will see us continue to offer Professional Learning to colleagues across the University. New colleagues will be welcomed onto our foundational programmes, AUT Essentials and AUT Essentials+ where we contextualise teaching and learning at AUT. We will ensure that new and experienced colleagues have access to our Academic Educational Practice sessions that address key educational areas. We will amplify our curation of research and webinars from other educational institutions, and recommence our Global Perspectives in Educational Practice series to connect us to leading scholars across the globe.

CANVAS@AUT



As we enter our first year with Canvas as AUT's Learning Management System we anticipate new opportunities for learning and development. Work will continue in early 2022 to ensure that we are on track to meet our go-live in Semester 1. Our Canvas@AUT Training resources, which include introductory videos, self-paced training modules and a webinar series, will continue to support staff in maintaining their courses and 24/7 Canvas help will be available to everyone. We look forward to continuing to work with colleagues to both build and enhance courses in Canvas.

ONGOING SUPPORT



2021 has been an enormous year for growth for altLAB, our service tripled in size and we worked hard to extend our connection with the AUT community to deliver results with lasting educational impact. Next year we will continue deliver on our vision of changing the way we work and learn by supporting learning transformation at AUT. On behalf of the PVC Learning & Teaching and altLAB we wish you a safe and restorative break and we look forward to connecting with you in the new year!

2022!

Connect with us at
altlab.aut.ac.nz