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Technological University Dublin Peer Assisted Learning Initiative

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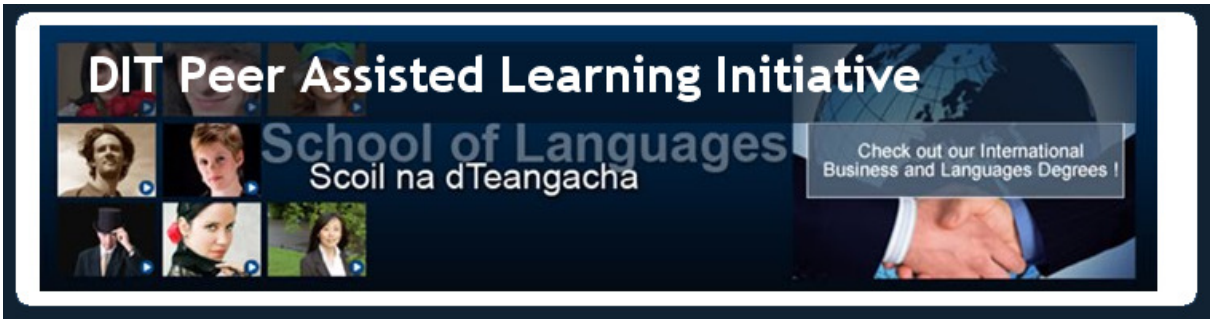


Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) in the School of Languages, Dublin Institute of Technology

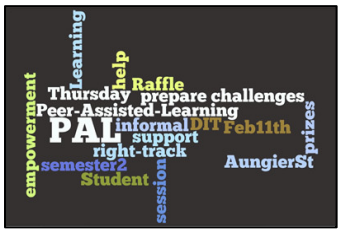
Pilot project in the BA International Business and Languages. PAL provides academic support and encouragement to 1st year students by involving 2nd year students as mentors.

Principles of PAL

Peer Assisted Learning is based on:

- **collaborative learning**
- **autonomous learning**
- **active learning**
- **the role of intrinsic motivation.**

Mentors and 1st year students spend time together sharing and reflecting on their learning experiences, regardless of their level of competency. Year 2 students are better equipped with the skills-set that needs to be fostered in 1st years.



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http://www.dit-pal.blogspot.com

Facebook "DIT Peer Assisted Learning"

Reasons

PAL aims to:

- **facilitate integration**
- **help students acquire third level study skills**
- **improve pass rates and retention**

Process of Implementation in DIT

Semester 1:

Information on the initiative and its benefits to students was presented to all 2nd and 1st year students on the BA International Business and Languages. The project started with an induction session for year 2 mentors in the Spanish, German, French and English streams. A get together session between 1st year students and 2nd year mentors kick started the PAL sessions.

Semester 2:

Participation from 1st year students was encouraged through a second get together session , promotional material and the launch of a Facebook page as well as a Webcourses module.

A survey and a focus group provided insights for the evaluation of the project.

Action Plan 2010-2011

Identify and train mentors by September 2010 to take part in 1st year induction.
Include PAL in 1st year students' handbook and timetable.
Roll out PAL from induction onwards to increase 1st year students' participation.
Feedback session during review week semester1
Maintain active involvement among programme team.

Dublin Institute of Technology · Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Átha Cliath · D·I·T

HEA Higher Education Authority An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

NDP National Development Plan 2007 - 2013