



**ILI Education Working Group & ILI Education Committee
Report to the AGM May 2011**

Committee Members

Chair of Committee Tony Williams

Members Dermot Foley
 Joanne Coughlan
 Laura Flynn
 Mark Boyle
 Thomas Burns.

This report is a synopsis of the work being carried out by the ILI Education Committee¹.

The aim of the education working group is to ensure that

- the highest standards are followed in our education of Landscape Architects
- that our members educational courses are fully accredited.
- that our members have access to continuing professional development (CPD).

The work of the ILI Education Working Group has had a number of main foci.

1. Landscape Architecture Course at UCD

The Landscape Architecture course (DN041 Landscape Architecture (LDS2)) in UCD is part of the School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering.²

The course is a four years Bachelor Degree in Landscape Architecture with options for a one year masters. The course is EFLA approved since 2007 and was designed to allow the possibility of a few routes to the final professional qualification as per ECLAS and EFLA guidelines. This includes the retention of a separate two year masters for students who have achieved the basic competencies in landscape studies. Due to the resources of the college, there is a limited intake of Masters students.

Our monitoring is intended to ensure we in the ILI are aware of the course delivery and the quality of student development.

We currently have no students' representatives for undergraduate and MLA years and would request a member of the students be available to meet with us if required. We are available to discuss any issues they may have. Mr. Dermot Foley is our representative in UCD and co-ordinates the work of the Education Working Group on behalf of the ILI.

We will continue our contact with the staff and students of UCD Landscape Architecture and were impressed by the commitment of the staff and students and the scope and content of the studio and design projects.

As ever, we would like to be able to attend as many of the student sessions as possible but professional commitments can be onerous and prevent attendance.

¹ To dispel the notion that it is a forum for debate, we title the committee as the Education Working Group.



The 2010 - 2011 academic year at UCD Landscape Architecture saw the further development and potential for integration of the curriculum with the architecture curriculum. Resources available to the school have been reduced substantially due to the current economic policies. For the 2011-2012 academic year and beyond the school will be restructured and will be called the School of Architecture. The word landscape will be dropped from the name of the school and this may be deemed a retrograde step. ILI will continue to monitor developments in relation to the course at UCD.

Dermot Foley continues to be the contact person for UCD and reports to the Education Working group as and when required. ILI had very little attendance at the critiques this year and we would like to be able to improve our attendance in the coming academic year. ILI continues to be involved in the UCD course and is available to assist with or discuss aspects of the courses with the staff and students

2. CPD requirement to be established for current members of ILI

A requirement for CPD was established by the AGM in 2009. The provision of a CPD programme for members is a necessity to ensure we achieve a high level of professionalism amongst our members and ensure our body of knowledge is fully available to our members.

As of yet there is no formal monitoring of CPD but it is the responsibility of all members to ensure they are up to date on developments within the field of landscape architecture and particularly in relation to the work they perform.

The CPD programme involves a combination of structured courses and self learning. The onus is on the individual to maintain a record of their continued learning with ILI acting to administer the course. We would hope to minimise our administration by providing an on line service for members.

In an environment where the Institute at national level and our umbrella organisations at European and Global level are trying to obtain registration of title, a formal CPD policy is required by the ILI. However, this will require sufficient resources to ensure its development and effective management.

3. Professional Practice Exams

This continues to be organised this year by Thomas Burns and Laura Flynn with administrative assistance provided by Grainne Finn. Laura will not be continuing in the role due to personal commitments. Our sincere thanks to Laura Flynn for all her work and effort in the organisation of the professional practice exams.

The timing of the exams have been changed this year and will now be held in the Autumn. Further details will be provided on the website and members informed via our e bulletin. .

Our thanks to UCD for their continuing support in allowing us to use the facilities of the college for both the preparatory lecture and for hosting the exams.

4. Lecture series

The lecture series has been a phenomenal success even with the need to suspend some of the lectures due to the need to control spending. This is referred to in the Treasurer's report. Our thanks to Joanne Coughlan and Laura Flynn who have succeeded in providing a continuous stream of lectures of varying topics. Both will not be able to organise the lectures in the coming year and we are seeking volunteers with the energy and wherewithal to organise lectures in the coming season.

We would hope to continue the lecture series in the coming season and this requires the assistance of you the membership. Nominations for council and committees are open and we particularly need to have a team to continue the success of the lecture series.

5. IFLA/EFLA Education: Developments of a common education platform and further steps to the regulation of the title.

An aim of EFLA over the last number of years has been development of a common education platform.



At the Education committee at the GA 2010, further development was made in the process of a establishing a common education platform between the EFLA members. The common education platform is required in order to ensure the education requirements are fully standardised in terms of the quality but also to allow for the diversity within Europe.

The development of the professional practice aspects of the members of IFLA/EFLA is a process which is happening in tandem. Both strands will be part of the submission by IFLA/EFLA to the EU and incorporation of Landscape Architecture practice into the Professional Services Directive.

Co-operation has been developed between EFLA and ECLAS with the aim to establishing further co-operation in achieving the common aim of a high quality landscape architectural education and a streamlining of the development, approval and monitoring of landscape architectural programmes. A working group comprising EFLA and ECLAS members is now active and we are developing the necessary documentation to inform the Services Directive which is being redrafted and expected to be enacted in 2012.

This is being assisted by the German Landscape Architectural Association the BDLA and is being led by Prof. Fritz Auweck.

Once our profession is included in the Services Directive as a defined profession we can then have the regulation of the title Landscape Architect enshrined in Law. This would be a major step towards ensuring the future development of our profession and provide our members with the protection of title.

6. Issues related to education include the recognition of landscape architectural courses by ILI and this requires we have cognisance of the following as a means to assessing membership applications.

a. the list of approved IFLA/EFLA courses as a guide to course which are approved. Member applications from these courses will be accepted as candidate or full members based on their professional practice and current requirements of graduate and corporate membership.

b. the approved courses of each member organisation of IFLA/EFLA. As not all courses are EFLA approved, we assess whether the national association of the country (if an EFLA member) accepts their graduates as members. Acceptance by the national association of a particular course will deem it acceptable to ILI.

Candidates from non IFLA/ EFLA member states presenting for ILI membership may in some cases require clarification of their course from the school or university. However, due to the anomaly regarding EFLA membership, they are currently only allowed Affiliate status.

Continuing Work in 2011/2012

We would expect to continue to develop the above issues and would ask for additional members of the working group to become involved in what is a key aspect of our profession. We would also ask that you only volunteer if you feel you can give up some of your time as we tend to meet outside of working hours. We also tend to communicate by email and develop our documents in this way.

However, we require to improve attendance at the critiques at UCD and we would especially ask that you assist with these by volunteering to attend. Contact can be made to Dermot Foley directly or via the administration at ili@irishlandscapeinstitute.com. This will ensure ILI has a presence at the critiques and that attendance in a structured manner.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Williams MILI
Chair of the Education Committee
Irish Landscape Institute
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