

## Links with Academic Staff



Our collaboration with academic staff has led to the implementation of innovative teaching and learning technologies. The use of Turning Point to promote active learning through the “Ask the Audience” technology is a recent example that has proven valuable in interacting with large class sizes. Now every centrally bookable teaching room with a PC has the software installed.



## Partnerships with Physical Resources Department

Annually we undertake a room condition survey which allows us identify shortcomings in real estate and technology provision. Our aim is to provide high quality teaching environments and these surveys allow us to agree and prioritise work in areas where it may be needed. Recent work in one such area was achieved in collaboration with PRD colleagues and our users are delighted with the end result.

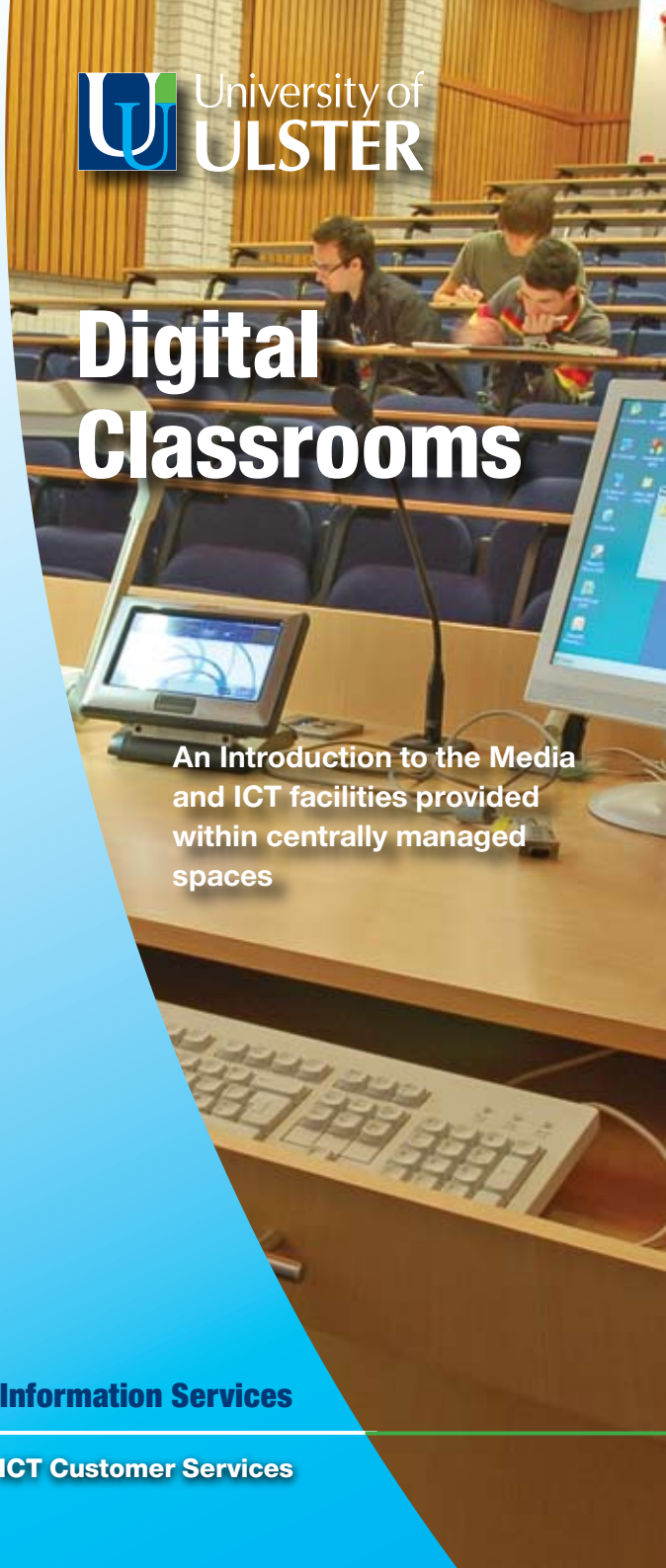
Dr Mervyn Smyth (School of the Built Environment) commented about this space...

*“I used to hate teaching in this room, now it’s great, it’s a 100 times better than it was before. The lectern is much better than the old one, really excellent; it’s a big, big improvement”.*

## Further Information

To arrange training, discuss your needs, help or assistance or perhaps to discuss anything outlined in this leaflet, please contact the Service Desk at 028 903 66777 (ext 66777) or email [servicedesk@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:servicedesk@ulster.ac.uk)

# Digital Classrooms



An Introduction to the Media and ICT facilities provided within centrally managed spaces

## Technology Enhanced Teaching and Learning Space

Information Services provides a range of digital media and IT technologies in centrally managed teaching spaces. Our provision supports aspects of the Teaching and Learning strategy and its use is intended to enrich the student experience.



## What is Digital and What is Not

Over 200 centrally-bookable spaces are available across campuses in the form of teaching rooms lecture theatres, computer laboratories and committee rooms. Digital projectors and/or plasma systems are provided in over 80% of these rooms. Provision is planned with Physical Resources (PRD) so that investment is focussed in the most heavily used areas, and in a balanced manner, to facilitate the spectrum of class sizes and popular teaching styles. In those rooms that do not have fixed equipment we provide facilities via a loan service; see the “How to Book Facilities” section below.

## Our Equipment and Support Service

Our facilities are designed to be user friendly and quick and easy to use, however, if problems arise then our Service Desk team (Ext. 66777) will provide first line support. Should an issue be difficult to diagnose over the phone, our second line support, in the form of campus teams, are available to visit rooms when an immediate response is required.

Each semester we advertise ‘walk in’ familiarisation sessions and encourage staff to attend these. They are designed to build confidence and allow our users to be aware of setups in the areas we support. Look out for our announcements about forthcoming sessions advertised via the Portal. Have you ever attended any of our Digital Classroom training sessions? We are interested in your views about this service and are particularly keen to discuss training opportunities with part time lecturing staff. Please contact the Service Desk for further information at Ext. 66777 or [servicedesk@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:servicedesk@ulster.ac.uk)



## How to Book Facilities

Anyone booking a central room must do so via the PRD website which can be found at [www.ulster.ac.uk/timetabling/rmbkgs.html](http://www.ulster.ac.uk/timetabling/rmbkgs.html). When viewing the rooms available on each campus, the list advises whether a Data Projector or Plasma facility is available in that space.

If you need to avail of our loan service, visit [www.ulster.ac.uk/isd/itus/media/avbookings/](http://www.ulster.ac.uk/isd/itus/media/avbookings/) where you will be able to request loan items for the central areas we support which do not have fixed facilities.

## Service Development Strategy

As new technology becomes available, Information Services undertakes evaluative projects to assess its relevance to our needs and progressively enhances provision on this basis. For example, digital control systems have been introduced to remove the complexity of managing differing technologies provided in lecture theatres. Also, we have a remote management solution available to control digital projectors.