# E-Learning Unit Update – February 2017

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| For | E-Learning Steering Group |
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Based on [REN21](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/REN21)'s 2016 report, renewables contributed 19.2% to humans' [global energy consumption](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_energy_consumption)and 23.7% to their generation of electricity in 2014 and 2015, respectively. This energy consumption is divided as 8.9% coming from [traditional biomass](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biofuel#traditional), 4.2% as heat energy (modern biomass, geothermal and solar heat), 3.9% hydro electricity and 2.2% is electricity from wind, solar, geothermal, and [biomass](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biofuel). Worldwide investments in renewable technologies amounted to more than US$286 billion in 2015, with countries like [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renewable_energy_in_China) and the [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renewable_energy_in_the_United_States) heavily investing in wind, hydro, solar and biofuels.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renewable_energy#cite_note-4)Globally, there are an estimated 7.7 million jobs associated with the renewable energy industries, with [solar photovoltaics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_photovoltaics) being the largest renewable employer.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renewable_energy#cite_note-5) As of 2015 worldwide, more than half of all new electricity capacity installed was renewable.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renewable_energy#cite_note-guardianiea2015-6)

## A round-up of recent activity from the E-Learning Unit (ELU).

## QMplus Hub Developments

The ELU is currently working with an external development company, Catalyst IT, to make modifications to our e-portfolio system, QMplus Hub, to support the QMUL Model. Work began in February 2017 with an internal requirements workshop with staff members from across QMUL engaged in the development of the QMUL Model. The project has now secured funding from the IT Strategy Board and will work to deliver the following by September 2017:

1. Enhancements to QMplus Hub:
   1. Student dashboard displaying summary content from their e-portfolio related to the competency framework being developed for the QMUL Model
   2. Tutor dashboard for academic advisers to see a list of their students and access their dashboards
2. A skills audit – a questionnaire completed by students as many times as they wish, the results indicate the level of mastery of the different competencies.
3. Visual representation of a student’s latest completion of the skills audit.
4. Management reports to see access and engagement levels of the system.

The project is currently being managed by the Head of E-Learning until an IT project manager is assigned. Catalyst IT have been approved as qualified for a direct award, sono competitive pricing will be collected. For this reason, the proposed solution and quote are being carefully scrutinized before the contract is issued. In order to meet the September deadline, we aim to complete negotiations with Catalyst and issue a contract in mid-May so that development can begin.

## Recording Booths

The recording booth project had been stalled due to lack of funding for the Estates element of the project: to construct, make good and soundproof the spaces identified for the two booths.  No provision was initially made for this aspect and the Estates Strategy Board did not prioritise the project for funding.  Since the AV equipment and technical installation were both funded, a decision was taken to release the Bancroft Building space and instead install the recording equipment in the E-Learning Unit’s premises in Scape East and provide a non-soundproofed booth to a lower specification than originally intended.  We held onto the Garrod basement room and continued to lobby for funding to renovate the space.

Through the Teaching Room Project, funding was recently agreed to refurbish the Garrod basement space alongside a general refurbishment of the Garrod teaching rooms.  This basic refurbishment was completed in March 2017 and opened the doors for the recording booth project to recommence.  Given the long delay, it is sensible to re-evaluate the initial design based on usage so far, and to consult with the supplier about updated and/or obsolete equipment.  Gary Schwartz from the E-Learning Unit is working with the supplier, the project manager and those who have used the current recording equipment to produce an updated design.  The project board will then be asked to review and approve, before installation.  It is hoped that the installation will be completed before 31 July 2017, but expected that it will be ready by the start of teaching 17/18.

## Summer Upgrades to E-Learning Applications

1. Both the council leader and chief executive have resigned as a result.
2. Only 14 out of the 158 affected families have accepted offers of temporary accommodation but ministers say no-one will be forced to move.
3. Housing minister Alok Sharma fought back tears as he told the Commons of hearing "harrowing accounts" from survivors, saying it had been the most "humbling and moving experience of my life".
4. He said 19 families "have not yet been ready to engage" in the process of being rehoused, while others were waiting for offers of permanent tenancy and many were still in hotels.

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## QMplus Hub

## QMplus Hub will receive a minor upgrade in June 2017 – this will deliver some new functionality and prepare the ground for the QMUL Model developments coming in September (see above). In addition, major changes to both QMplus and Q-Review are planned for the summer with upgrades taking place in July and August, respectively.

## QMplus

## QMplus will receive a significant ‘facelift’ with a new user interface designed in response to feedback from, and in consultation with, staff and students. Our design partner, Synergy Learning, has run two consultation workshops and presented design concepts to QMplus users who have been very engaged and provided constructive direction. More information is available on the upgrade page: <https://www.elearning.capd.qmul.ac.uk/learning-applications/qmplus/qmplus-upgrades/2017-qmplus-upgrade/>. The key dates for staff and students are 10-12 July 2017, when QMplus will be in restricted access mode.

## Q-Review

## Q-Review, our lecture capture system which has never received a major upgrade, will be migrated to a new cloud-based platform during August 2017. The anticipated date for this work is the week commencing 14 August, but this is not yet confirmed. The upgrade date will be circulated widely once confirmed – downtime will not affect the ability to view existing recordings, but will prevent new recordings being made. Significant improvements will be delivered, including:

## An improved Q-Review interface with recordings embedded within QMplus and the ability to move between course recordings without leaving the page

## An integrated classroom view with engagement tools for staff and students

## The ability to include student response activities in presentations

## Improved reporting on usage statistics

## Integration with QMUL’s timetabling system

## In-room visual indicators to identify when a recording is in progress (not confirmed)

## For more information, please see the Q-Review upgrade page:

## <https://www.elearning.capd.qmul.ac.uk/announcements/q-review-upgrade-summer-2017/>.

## E-Learning Production Scheme – second round

## The XXXX funded projects from Phase I of the E-Learning Production Scheme are now drawing to a close. XXXX projects are completed and the remaining projects are due to completed by XXXX. We are in the process of collecting case studies from those who received funding and support and will publish these as they are received.

## Phase II of the scheme launched on XXXX and closed on 7 April 2017. XXXX applications were received from all three faculties XXXX Shelley please update if not true. After careful consideration from the evaluation team, the following innovative projects were selected for funding due to their direct and clear contribution to learning and teaching with technology at QMUL.

## XXXX

## We look forward to reporting on the progress of these projects.

## E-Learning Team Changes

Following a restructure of the CAPD, the E-Learning Unit will now reside within a sub-directorate of Student Services, its working title is Academic Development Division, led by the Assistant Director of Academic Development, Sally Mitchell. The ELU does not anticipate any material change in its direction or its activities and continues to work to its published strategy. We ask that our stakeholders continue to engage with the ELU members they already work with and if there are any concerns or questions about the new structure, please direct these directly to Stella Ekebuisi, or via your factulty or professional services user group representative.

We have a new member of the team, Rose Heaney, who joined as a part-time (0.5FTE) Senior Learning Technologist (E-Learning Applications Manager). Rose joined the team on 18 April 2017 from the London School of Economics, after a significant period as a learning technologist at the University of East London. Rose will jobshare with Alysa Bramble who will reduce her hours to part-time (0.5FTE) from 1 June 2017. Alysa will be in touch with those of you she works closely with.