



## Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Learning and Teaching

### PHELT Cert 2011 – Information Sheet for Prospective Participants

#### What is the PHELT Cert?

The *PHELT Cert* (Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Learning and Teaching) is a 60-point, Master's level qualification that provides a focused, thorough, practically applicable grounding in the best current teaching and learning-related research, theory, and evidence-based practice in higher education. It is designed for tertiary teachers with backgrounds in disciplines other than education.

#### What can the PHELT Cert offer me?

Participating in the *PHELT Certificate* will provide the following benefits:

- A focused, critical exploration of current theory and research on teaching and learning in higher education
- Guidance and support in applying that research to improve course design, teaching and assessment practice, learning outcomes, and professional success
- Assistance in evaluating and documenting teaching effectiveness for professional advancement
- Support and supervision in designing and carrying out PBRF-eligible applied research on teaching and learning in one's academic discipline
- Opportunities to learn from and collaborate with like-minded staff from across the University

Members of the first few cohorts of PHELT Cert participants observed the following:

"[PHELT] provided a structured context for exploring my teaching philosophy, for understanding diverse learning styles, and for identifying key issues about curriculum design, assessment, and feedback across a range of disciplines."

"It is as if the students' learning and my teaching are suddenly in focus, viewed through the clarity of understanding and respect."

#### How is PHELT organised?

The Certificate is divided into three modules. The first module, UTDC 501 – a 30-point course, offered in Trimester Two 2011– is *Foundations of Higher Education Learning and Teaching*:

A critical examination of current theories and related research – from psychology, cognitive science, education, and other disciplines – on effective teaching and learning in higher and tertiary education. Participants will evaluate the potential explanatory power and practical applications of the theories and research to understanding and improving their own teaching effectiveness and their students' learning outcomes. The products to be assessed will be a reflective essay on the relevance of specific theories and research studied to the participant's teaching practice and an action research design project focusing on a specific course.

Following *Foundations* are two 15-point individualised research modules. UTDC 502 involves implementing and writing up the research designed in *Foundations* and UTDC 503 is focussed on the development of a professional teaching portfolio.

#### How much will it cost?

Current fees are approximately \$1500 for UTDC 501. In the past, course fees were reimbursed for full-time VUW academic staff who passed *Foundations*. We will continue to seek University support for *PHELT* participation.

#### How much of my time will be required?

While final course details will be determined in consultation, we expect that *Foundations* participants will meet for 2-4 hours weekly during the Trimester to discuss and critique readings on theory and research, try out innovative strategies, prepare and report on applications, and develop relevant course design and research skills. In addition to the weekly meeting time, participants are likely to spend 5-7 hours per week preparing.

#### How can I find out more?

Contact [Stephen.Marshall@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Stephen.Marshall@vuw.ac.nz).