

LATTEs On-the-Go

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Mobile devices are becoming more commonplace in classrooms and driving the incentive for institutions to adopt mobile learning practices, even though these tools are rarely designed with formal teaching in mind. The adoption of the iPad into tertiary education contexts brings about many new paradigms which creates a tension between established practices of teaching and learning. With these issues becoming increasingly critical, the Centre for Learning and Teaching (CfLAT) at AUT University has a Learning and Teaching Enabled by Technology (LATENT) strategy. In 2011, this led to the formulation of a team of Learning and Teaching Technology Enablers (LATTEs) to facilitate the use of iPads in a tertiary education context.

The LATTEs are a team of students who provide the driving force behind supporting a broad range of tools, including over 800 AUT purchased iPads. The team provides support for departments integrating the use of mobile devices in areas such as research, teaching, content management and creation through scheduled tutorials and training, drop-in and on-demand support sessions. The potential of the iPad and the aim of the LATTEs is to create an awareness of the capabilities of the new mobile technologies beyond delivering a lecture, reading a book, distributing class notes and otherwise just adding logistical value. The iPad facilitates interaction and conversation; the goal is to bring into focus how it can be used to move towards the flipped classroom. The outcomes have been broadly aimed at supporting new iPad users and reinforcing the core competencies to confront the challenges of adapting emerging pedagogical practices. The objective is to build on these outcomes through supporting documentation and resources to move beyond using it as a substitution tool for 'business as usual' tasks, and rather, to dynamically engage with content, students, physical and virtual spaces. To enable is to supply with means, knowledge and opportunity; the LATTEs enable teachers to explore, create and collaborate within new spaces and places.