



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

## Learning for work: the role of learning providers in widening access to learning

### Seminar

**Venue:** Room G.21 Paterson's Land, Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh

**Date:** Wednesday 23 February 2011, 9.30am – 4.00pm

This seminar will provide an overview of current debates in relation to workplace learning. It will also examine the way in which learning providers have engaged with the policy agenda.

The workplace has increasingly become recognised as a place of learning and development. Upskilling and reskilling the workforce is seen by the Government as a way of ensuring economic prosperity and as a means of protecting individuals from social exclusion and poverty and their lifelong learning skills strategy placed duties on employers, employees, unions and learning providers to ensure effective provision and engagement with learning.

Participants will be provided with a workplace learning briefing paper prior to the seminar and a brief report will be produced after the event which incorporates the key issues debated during the seminar.

This seminar draws on an evaluation of workplace learning funded by the Skills for Scotland project, research from an EU 6<sup>th</sup> framework project on lifelong learning and a review of workplace literacies conducted by a team of researchers led by Professor Lyn Tett for the Scottish Government.



## PROGRAMME

9.00–9.30	Registration and coffee
9.30–9.40	Welcome and Introduction
9.40–10.00	Learning for work formally and informally – an overview by Professor Lyn Tett
10.00-10.30	View of the policymakers: <i>Peter Beaumont, Head of Adult, College and Community Learning Team, Scottish Government</i>
10.30-11.00	Discussion
11.00–11.20	Coffee
11.20-12.30	Engaging employers and employees in learning – perspectives from:  Community Learning & Development – <i>Claire Stewart, CLD Officer, Scottish Borders</i> Unions – <i>Pat Egan, Union Learning Organiser, Unite</i> Colleges – <i>Kevin Clark, Project Manager, Skills for Scotland, Adam Smith College</i>
12.30-1.00	Small group discussion
1.00–1.45	Lunch
1.45-3.00	Delivering learning in or for the workplace – perspectives from:  Workers' Educational Association Scotland – <i>Shirley Howitt, Area Tutor Organiser, Glasgow, WEA</i> Unions – <i>James Lillis, Union Learning Representative, Unite</i> Colleges – <i>Richard Ogston, Project Manager (Employability), Dundee College</i>
3.00-3.30	Discussion in small groups with focus on examples of good practice and challenges for the different types of learning providers
3.30–4.00	Plenary with a panel of practitioners and researchers identifying the key challenges and examples of good practice drawing on issues identified in the group discussions