

Full Title: Supporting creative active learning design for academics through mobile Technology Kits.

**Summary of Teaching & Learning Context**

Tablet devices foster the creation of asynchronous online content with enhanced production values of superior sound, video, lighting, positioning and resolution. They also provide a gateway to the world of app technologies. These enhance the learning experience for all students and empower academics to broaden their use of technologies in their learning and teaching design. The TUS Technology Kits, funded by SATLE 2, provide scope for TUS academics to achieve this.

Prior work at Australian Universities ([UTS](#), [WSU](#)) saw uses of iPad packs offering mobile technology capabilities to academics with resulting content creating enhanced engagement from students. Interactions between learning designers and academics saw increased output of self-created content by academics. Faculties including, health, sport science, arts, social sciences and engineering benefitted. It was also a way to connect to academics across different campuses, not unlike the geographical spread of TUS.

**Implementing the Strategy**

Based on prior work, this idea was approved for SATLE 2 Funding and purchases were undertaken in mid 2020 linking in with the Computer Services and Finance departments. The purchases included:

**Proposed purchases**

Item / Hyperlink	Function
Tablet device – for discussion, type, spec – <a href="#">iPad</a> / <a href="#">Android tablet</a>	Mobile, portable, multifunctional devices with access to App Store/Google Play Store world of education Apps.
<a href="#">Bluetooth adapter</a>	To allow connectivity with standard TUS PCs
<a href="#">Rode Wireless Go II</a>	2 excellent clip-on mics with up to 200m range
<a href="#">Sennheiser HD350BT Bluetooth Headphones</a>	For audio monitoring and playback
<a href="#">Tablet Mount and Stand</a>	A robust stand that allows the tablet to be mounted and positioned.
<a href="#">Lightweight Bag</a>	Attractive and comfortable bag capable of storing kit pieces and more including books, writing pads or laptop.

Tablets chosen – Samsung Galaxy Tab S6 Lite 64GB



iPad Air 4th generation



### Subsequent purchases included:

Paperlike screen protectors – enhanced use of the pen with tablet with screen feeling like paper

Gel protectors – for use of the tablet when not on the stand, gel protectors protect against any fall.

Ukulele cases – for safety and a bit of fun, ukulele cases were purchased to carry the tablet stand by hand rather than in the back pack.

Practical advice – Start small, begin with pilot projects and build from there. Slowly grow your relationship with academics and on campuses. The initial consultation between technologist and academic on using the kit empowers the academic to confidently use the technology. Subsequent follow up for sharing files via OneDrive, editing videos and discussing work done is essential.



### Observations/Reflections

- Ken Coleman, TUS Midwest LSAD Clare St / Clonmel – “As digital artist, this mobile technology kit is a game changer. Now I can work in the field with my SLR camera, Bluetooth my photos over to the iPad and edit them there and then.”
- Kevin Healion, TUS Midwest Thurles – “I was very impressed with the sound quality.”
- June O’Byrne Prior, TUS Midwest Moylish – “Capturing the visit of Adare Manor’s sommelier for our Event Management class will be a powerful asynchronous resource to use in the future.”

### Examples from Tech Kits used at TUS

1. Ken Coleman field recording – use of Procreate app in situ to edit photos en plein air



2. Kevin Healion field recording – Hedgerows discussion asynchronous resource



3. June Prior O’Byrne – Adare sommelier visit to Event Management course – Timelapse video



### Next Projects

Maria A Walsh, TUS Midwest Clonmel – Digital Arts & Media; Michael Fennelly, TUS Midwest Thurles – Strength & Conditioning; James Griffin, TUS Midwest Moylish – Marketing, Enterprise & Digital Communications.

While working with academics spread out across different campuses is a challenge, after an initial meeting, following up with them online via email/Teams calls ensures good engagement and take up. It also develops and supports the community of practice activities between the Learning and Teaching team and TUS academics. A Staff Training day session was held in February 2022 also.

### Recommended Resources

Recommended sites for equipment purchases – [www.thomann.de](http://www.thomann.de), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)  
Article by Ken Coleman [harness an Adobe Cloud to Procreate workflow with Ken Coleman](#)

### References

[Supporting Technology-enhanced Teaching Practices for Health Academics](#) – Mark O’Connor – 9th International Conference on Computer Supported Education, 2017.

[The UWS MiHub – A Blended Learning Media Content Creative Space](#) – Mark O’Connor – Future of Education Conference, 2014.