

Meet a... IT Lecturer



**Claire George, IT Lecturer at
Bridgend College**

How would you describe your job in a tweet i.e.140 characters?

Facilitator, mentor, innovator, and sustainable champion to all learners. Using the curriculum to embed ESDGC to motivate and shape the future development of young people within Wales.

What does an average day look like?

There is never an average day in education. I'm always looking for new ways to inspire and develop learners to succeed and shape future aspirations. As an IT Lecturer and sustainable champion I use innovative technologies and collaborative working practices to engage learners and colleagues across all areas of the curriculum. Responsible for an award winning initiative (SMILE project) which encourages new sustainable principles and practice for the learner's future success. Networking and forging external partnerships is essential in delivering these initiatives. Liaising and communicating with learners, parents, exam boards to Welsh government levels to ensure the curriculum has a sustainable impact on the future at local and global levels.

What are the key skills and qualifications required for your job?

An excellent communicator with a passion to inspire, disseminate and nurture others through the curriculum. A degree or equivalent in your subject area and PGCE.

What training and continuous professional development do you require?

Within education there is the constant reinvention to the curriculum so the ability to adapt to change and challenges is essential, CPD cycle is never ending. Technology is evolving and changing the way we work, communicate and collaborate ideas sustainably. Therefore it is essential that we lead by example showcasing 'best practice'. I have recently been invited to join a new government training initiative for Digital Literacy Practitioners in Wales, a direct response to the needs to develop digital literacy within Wales to future proof success at both local and global levels.

What are your top three responsibilities?

- Develop a transformational and exploration learning opportunities for all learners.
- Develop innovative, creative and sustainable curriculum using digital technology.
- Facilitate a higher degree of learner engagement alongside a deeper level of enquiry and personal reflection.

Tell us something surprising about your job that people may not know about?

I have had the opportunity to work in Denmark and Athens on developing projects for CAL materials. Attended a European conference in Brussels to showcase SMILE initiative Wales being seen as an innovator and leader.

What are the positives and negatives of the job?

I make a difference every day and it's the best! Not enough hours in the day to get all jobs done with the ever decreasing time allocated to the curriculum (government legislation).



To help our Members understand more about the roles in further and higher education institutions, we've created a suite of career profiles. These share the main responsibilities and skills and knowledge required of many of the key roles that play a part in embedding sustainability in a tertiary education institution.

View the entire suite at www.eauc.org.uk/meet_a_member

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Do you manage a budget, and what are your key priorities for this?

I was recently awarded a small budget from WG to develop a Food App to promote local food and farming within our local borough.

What does the path to career progression in this role look like?

I love teaching and being part of the front-end of house. I am still inspired by my learners and am in awe of some of the obstacles faced today. Watching my learners grow and respond to the demands of the curriculum and their future progression decisions they make.

What is the minimum and maximum salary band for this role?

£21,000 – 37,600.

What advice do you have for graduates and other potential candidates who are considering joining?

Be prepared to work exceptionally hard FE is tough but the rewards are unimaginable. Never take NO for an answer so you will need to become an excellent negotiator, problem solver and manipulator in parts to ensure the curriculum is responsible. Be enthusiastic, original, remarkable, positive and breathtaking.

For institutions without an IT Lecturer – what 3 aspects of your role do you think are the most important for any institution's sustainability journey?

- Engage and support staff at all levels to ensure a sustainable curriculum is developed to support at local and national levels within Wales.
- Continue to develop and lead an innovative curriculum which inspires sustainable learning.
- Make a difference and stretch the boundaries to effective learning.

What department do you and your line manager sit in? Which departmental interactions are vital for your role?

Teaching and Learning. I have the opportunity to develop a sustainable curriculum, using a range of technologies and practical disciplines. Thus meeting objectives of each project and the demands on our local community.

What opportunities and challenges does working in a further education institution bring?

Do you want to inspire and make a difference in the lives of those who didn't reach their potential? Then FE can provide the opportunity to do this. However today's student is very different from the first I met in 1991. Funding cuts from government has placed extreme pressures to this sector with more difficult times ahead.

How do you communicate the outputs of your role to the wider institution, and what does this include?

A varied range of dissemination is used to inspire and engage others: Vlogs, Blogs, college website, social media supported by our marketing department as well as attending local, national and European conferences.

What are the unique opportunities to embed sustainability in to this job?

I have the privilege of being able to develop innovative projects within the curriculum and develop sustainable students.

How has EAUC Membership helped you in your job and within your institution?

Having the support of professionals within the sustainability profession is essential to further develop and build upon initiatives. As a member there is advice and support which is invaluable.

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EAUC sustainability CPD programme

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