



The Consultants-E "[ICT in the Classroom](#)" Online Course finalist in the British Council ELTON Awards - <http://www.britishcouncil.org/learning-innovation-awards>

## A Second Look at Second Life



<http://eduation.theconsultants-e.com>

Dear ,

Welcome to our regular newsletter exploring the world of ICT in education, online training and development. In this first issue of 2007 we take another look at **Second Life** – a 3D virtual environment which represents an exciting new development in the world of online teaching and training. When we produced our last Newsletter (November 2006), there were 800,000 users in Second Life – today, three months later, there are over 3 million users, which gives you some idea of how Second Life is growing. If you haven't heard of it yet, you will!

You'll find the following sections in this newsletter:

- **E-LEARNING UPDATE: Second Life**
- **TRY IT OUT**
- **CONFERENCES**
- **COMPANY NEWS & UPDATE**

We hope you'll enjoy this newsletter. Please note that you've received it because you signed up for mailings from us on our website (<http://www.theconsultants-e.com>) or have done a course with us. If you no longer want to receive newsletters or mailings, please send an email to [info@theconsultants-e.com](mailto:info@theconsultants-e.com), with 'Unsubscribe' in the subject line.

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## E-LEARNING UPDATE

Set up by Linden Labs in 2003, Second Life (SL) has grown exponentially – with now more than 3 million users, it's the largest and most dynamic 3-D virtual world on the Internet. Not only can you do many of the things you can do in real life (meet people, go shopping, watch movies or videos, and a long etcetera), but there is a growing community of educators and educational institutions in SL.

We're proud to announce that EduNation has been at the forefront of some of the recent developments in SL. Here are just some of what's been happening in SL since our last update in our November Newsletter (which you can download here if you missed it: <http://www.theconsultants-e.com/newsletter/> )

- In November, a group of Dutch Members of Parliament from a wide spectrum of political parties held a political meeting in EduNation, just before the Dutch elections. See the video of what they did here:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kqod\\_Fyyot0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kqod_Fyyot0)



### Dutch Politicians on EduNation in Second Life

- Our Project Director Gavin Dudeney, was recently interviewed about SL by EdTechLive. The interview will give you an excellent overview of SL and its potential in education, as well as examples of educational projects already running in SL - you can listen here: <http://edtechlive.wikispaces.com/Recordings+List> (scroll down to Gavin's name).

- We published an article in the Guardian Weekly about SL and education, called 'Talk to the Avatar' - <http://education.guardian.co.uk/tefl/story/0,,1929335,00.html>
- The online teaching community of Webheads holds regular meetings in SL, where they have their own hut on EduNation. You can read about and see photos of what they get up to in SL in the Webhead SL blog by Baldric Commons at <http://baldricstrousers.edublogs.org/> and some more musings from Vance Stephens at: [http://www.geocities.com/vance\\_stevens/secondlife\\_edu.htm](http://www.geocities.com/vance_stevens/secondlife_edu.htm)



**A regular Webheads meet-up on EduNation**

- Gavin has also been out on the road speaking at gaming conferences, with appearances at the Serious Games Seminar in Leicester - where he spoke about teaching and training with Multi-User Virtual Environments - and at the eGames conference in Oman, where he delivered a workshop on 'Marketing to Avatars'.

#### **Second Life Education links:**

- [Institutions and organisations in Second Life](#)
- [The Second Life Educators Mailing List](#) - SLED
- [The Second Life Researchers Mailing List](#)
- [Second Life Teen Educators List](#)
- [Second Life Education Blogs](#)
- [Introducing your Real Life students to Second Life](#)

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#### **TRY IT OUT**

Get started at the EduNation page - <http://www.theconsultants-e.com/edunation/> for tips on getting going, as well as some useful links that will help you find out more about Second Life.

Once you've downloaded SL and got yourself an avatar (or 3D 'character'), come and visit us at EduNation - we'll be glad to show you around! To find us, simply type this SLurl (Second Life url, or web address) into your browser (you'll need to have SL installed first for it to work):

<http://tinyurl.com/yehbto>

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## CONFERENCES

You'll find members of **The Consultants-E** speaking at the following conferences, and giving the following workshops:

### **IATEFL Slovenia Conference**

**Terme Topolšica, Slovenia**

01 - 04 February 2007

<http://www.iatefl.edus.si/conference07/index.html>

### **IATEFL Annual Conference**

**Aberdeen, Scotland**

18 - 22 April 2007

<http://www.iatefl.org/content/conferences/2007/index.php>

### **RELC Conference**

**Singapore**

23 - 25 April 2007

<http://www.relc.org.sg/seminar.htm>

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## COMPANY NEWS & UPDATE

- **How to Teach English with Technology – virtual launch in EduNation**

'How to Teach English with Technology', a new book on using ICT in the language classroom and written for the popular Longman How to... series by Gavin Dudeney and Nicky Hockly, is to be launched in the real world at the April IATEFL Conference, and in the virtual world of Second Life around the same time! We will be holding a book launch with virtual cocktails, real music and videos, and a treasure hunt with real prizes (including copies of 'How to Teach English with Technology'). Watch our website and our mailing list for the date and your invitation to this unique event!



**How to Teach English with Technology  
Dudeney, G. and Hockly, N - Longman 2007**

- **'ICT in the Classroom' online course short-listed for a British Council ELTON**

We are delighted to announce that our very successful online **ICT in the Classroom course**, which is quality assured by the Trinity Examinations Board, and was launched a year ago, has been short-listed for a prestigious British Council ELTON award. The 50-hour certificate course runs entirely online, and we've had excellent feedback from our participants so far, who have come from all over the world. We feel that this course is now well on the way to becoming a standard qualification through which to develop the ICT skills of both new and experienced teachers. Further information on course content and aims, enrolment procedure and fees from:

Trinity: <http://www.trinitycollege.co.uk/site/?id=705>

The Consultants-E: <http://www.theconsultants-e.com/course/trinityict>

**Our next 'ICT in the Classroom' course runs from 22 April – 30 June 2007**



- **Training materials for the European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI)**

The Consultants-E are currently developing training materials and short online courses for the European Bioinformatics Institute based in Cambridge, UK. EBI deals in genomes, DNA and other biology related data and the materials will help train end users in sequence, patent and literature search techniques on the EBI databases. More at <http://www.ebi.ac.uk>

- **European Union Socrates project 'Teaching Culture!'**

We have just finished the final stage of external evaluation of an EU Socrates - Grundtvig project in Intercultural Communication called 'Teaching Culture!', which we have worked with over the past 3 years. This outstanding project has produced an array of excellent outputs, all of which are available free of charge to the general public, including an entire online course on ICC. See their website at: <http://www.teaching-culture.de/>

- **eTwinning materials for the British Council**

The Consultants-E have been developing ICT project-based materials using simple ICT tools (such as WebQuests, blogs, wikis and podcasts), for the British Council's eTwinning website. These materials are available free to teachers, and show you how to set up and run real projects using these tools, between classes in different countries. See the eTwinning website for detailed project lesson plans, at: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/etwinning-project-plans.htm>

- **Tailor-made online courses and f2f seminars**

We continue to design and offer tailor-made online courses, and in spring of 2007 will be running an online course for a group of teachers in Siberia and the Russian Federation on 'Setting up and Developing Online Communities', financed by a grant from the Russian Education Department. We will be offering an online course to a group of women teachers in Saudi Arabia on 'ICT in the Classroom'. Our face-to-face work shops have taken us in the past few months to the UK (several times), Venezuela, Jordan, and Oman.

For more information on recent collaborations and projects, please see  
<http://www.theconsultants-e.com/portfolio>

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## OUR NEXT ONLINE COURSES

### **E-Moderation: A Training Course For Online Tutors: 1 – 31 March 2007**

**30 hours over four weeks**

This course is aimed at teachers, trainers, tutors, facilitators, lecturers and mentors from any discipline and any level of education, who are interested in developing the skills necessary to become an effective e-moderator in online courses. See

<http://www.theconsultants-e.com/courses/em/>

### **Moodle: A Training Course to learn how to use Moodle: 1 March – 4 May 2007**

**40 hours over eight weeks [one week off over the Easter period]**

This course is aimed at teachers, trainers, tutors, facilitators, lecturers and mentors from any discipline and any level of education, who are interested in learning how to set up and use Moodle to offer online courses. The course is run entirely online, in Moodle itself. See

<http://www.theconsultants-e.com/courses/moodle/>

### **ICT in the Classroom: 22 April – 30 June 2007**

**50 hours over ten weeks**

The ICT in the Classroom course looks at a range of useful technology-related skills which are immediately applicable in the classroom. You will learn about various approaches to using technology in the classroom and have the opportunity to put them into practice over the duration of the course itself. Areas covered in the course include: lesson planning for using the Internet, using chat and blogs with learners, and WebQuests. Participants will be required to produce a final ICT-based lesson to use with their own learners. See

<http://www.theconsultants-e.com/courses/trinityict/>

**Quality assured by [Trinity College London](#)  
nominated for a British Council ELTON award**



That's it for this edition. We hope you've enjoyed the newsletter and remember that you can download back copies of our Newsletters at:

<http://www.theconsultants-e.com/newsletter/>

Previous Newsletters cover these issues:

- [Second Life](#) (November 2006)
- [Interactive Whiteboards](#) (June 2006)
- [Tools for teaching a language online](#) (January 2006)
- [ICT Skills for educators](#) (October 2005)
- [VLEs – Virtual Learning Environments](#) (May 2005)

February, 2007  
The Consultants-E Team

