

Digital immersive experience: Catch your lobster and eat it.

While the Covid Pandemic seems like somewhat of a distant memory it highlighted that technology exists that allows the integration of interactive teaching and learning techniques with the more conventional on-campus style of delivery. Furthermore, the covid crisis served as a catalyst for a transition that appears to be unavoidable in the face of a rapidly progressing digitization, forcing higher education to review and assess the efficacy of existing teaching formats and routines in the face of digital alternatives. The pandemic presented a challenge but also an opportunity to evaluate fully on campus modules and redesign parts of them for a blended delivery, leveraging current technology and pedagogic tools to provide an enhanced student experience. The project Catch your lobster and I eat it was conceptualised during this time aiming to combine science and culinary arts for the development of engaging Digital Learning Resources (DLR) and immersive field, laboratory, and kitchen experiences for students. It will provide students with remote practical-based work experience opportunities. Lobster can be a somewhat difficult to access and a quite expensive commodity for students to work with in both a scientific and culinary context, and this DLR will provide virtual learning experience which will make the species more accessible to the learner. The DLR is exploring the habitat and fishing of the lobster, sustainability aspects, internal and external anatomy, quality and storage aspects, animal ethics and welfare, individual parts of the lobster and their use in a variety of recipes for a selection of dishes, from head to tail to shell, all supported by immersive detailed video documentation, tutorials and interactive quizzes all aimed at better engaging students. Apart from creating this immersive DLR, the experience gained during the development process, and lessons learned will be shared to support and inform future projects of a similar nature.

