



**MICROSOFT  
INNOVATIVE  
EDUCATOR EXPERT  
2024**



**Digital  
Excellence  
Impact  
Case Studies**

**2023/2024**

Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert

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## Introduction and Background

My name is Russell Smeaton, and I'm one of the Digital Learning Specialists at Teesside University. Previously, as part of the Future Facing Learning project, I became aware of the MIEE accreditation as part of Microsoft's innovative training programme and have recently successfully maintained my accreditation.

My background is focused on Education, having worked overseas for 10 years in countries like Guyana, Maldives and China. This experience has allowed me various roles from Computer teacher to English teacher, teacher training and curriculum design. I use this experience to help academics at Teesside make the most out of digital pedagogy. Since working at the University, I have graduated from my Masters in Digital Education, the PgC LTHE, as well as attaining Fellowship Status of the HEA.

## My MIEE Journey

I first applied for MIEE status several years ago and upheld my accreditation in the following years. After a shift in focus towards Adobe and their Creative Curriculum, I resumed my attention to Microsoft and was pleasantly surprised to see how the course has evolved over the years to take in a sound pedagogic approach. As you might expect, there is emphasis on using Microsoft products, but behind it all there are solid philosophies, looking at both constructivism and connectivism.

## Project Overview and Impact

As part of the MIEE process, it is required that you put forward a case study. I used some practical examples of projects that we've developed around the University, using platforms like OneNote to create both collaborative and reflective spaces for students as well as Forms for peer review. We've also experimented with Forms for formative assessment opportunities, as well as how it can be used to create live interactive sessions. I am fortunate to work with so many talented individuals

across the University, all of whom bring rich and diverse experiences with them. It is thanks to their enthusiasm and openness to trying some of my ideas that have enabled me to progress my MIEE, so thank you to all who let me work with you!

## MIEE and My Role

As I work with many academics using the Universities VLE, Blackboard, there have been recent developments to incorporate things like OneNote into a module. Through the MIEE training, I have been able to leverage this technical aspect with a pedagogic approach, maximising the benefits of applying a reflective approach to module delivery. It's important to note that the MIEE isn't just about Microsoft and it most certainly isn't just about technology. There are other courses that focus on these types of things. At its root, the MIEE is most certainly about digital education, and how the various tools can be used appropriately.

In conclusion, I can most definitely recommend the MIEE for any member of staff. It covers both technical and educational aspects in equal measure. It's also a great opportunity to reflect on the valuable work so many academics are already doing, and hopefully make people realise just how much good work they are already doing. Through the process, you will also be able to engage and interact with other educationalists through discussion groups, live sessions, and other guides.

The next window runs from May to July 2024. For anyone interested in applying, the Digital Learning Team are more than happy to support any member of staff wishing to apply.

## Additional Resources & Useful Information

- [Digital Transformation CPD.](#)
- [Teesside University's Knowledgebase-Guides.](#)
- For help & support with Digital Pedagogy or MIEE related queries contact [elarning@tees.ac.uk](mailto:elarning@tees.ac.uk).