



**Programme**  
**HEA Forward-Look Forum**

**“Unbundling” of Higher Education: What are the Implications and Opportunities for Ireland?**

**8.15am–2pm, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016**  
**Olympia Suite, Camden Court Hotel, Camden Street, Dublin 2.**

- 8.15am Registration and refreshments
- 9.00am Open remarks: Tom Boland, Chief Executive, Higher Education Authority
- 9.15am “Unbundling” Educational Provision and Delivery Modes—What’s Ahead?

As demographic and societal demand rises for higher education and for graduates, what are the implications for Irish higher education? To what extent can innovation help transform the Irish higher education landscape for the future—benefitting learners and institutions? Can education provision and delivery be “unbundled” to facilitate existing and new learners in a more innovative learning environment? To what extent should we consider re-organising the academic year, introducing genuine national-level credit transfer/accumulated credit-based qualifications, competency qualifications, and career pathways (not just educational pathways)? To what extent can/should learning be decoupled from location? Conversely, would changes in delivery modes offer Ireland a competitive advantage?

Chairperson: Tom Boland, Chief Executive, Higher Education Authority

Keynote speakers:

- Dr. Paul J. LeBlanc, President, Southern New Hampshire University
- Professor Mark Brown, Director, National Institute for Digital Learning, Dublin City University

Panel:

- Professor Sarah Moore, Chairperson, National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning and Associate Vice-President Academic, University of Limerick
- Paul Healy, Chief Executive, Skillnets

- Professor Vincent Cunnane, President, Institute of Technology, Sligo
- Colleen Dube, Chief Executive, Uversity

11.00am Refreshments

11.20am “Unbundling” Providers—Are there Alternative Models?

Beyond matters of cost-saving, to what extent can Irish higher education be re-configured to best meet the changing needs of students and society? Are there alternative models or a need for greater specialisation? Are there ways to innovate academic provision to meet the needs of a more diverse student cohort, including earner-learners? What are the implications for the academic profession? What are the opportunities for innovating our structures and models of higher education for lifelong learning, continuing professional development and internationalization? What are the risks if we don’t innovate more quickly?

Chairperson: Dr. Gemma Irvine, Head of Policy and Strategic Planning, Higher Education Authority

Keynote speaker:

- Goldie Blumenstyk, Senior Writer, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*

Panel:

- Dr. Seán Rowland, President, Hibernia College
- Professor Cathal Kelly, Chief Executive and Registrar, Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland
- Dr. Phillip Matthews, President, National College of Ireland
- Julie Spillane, Director of The Centre for Innovation in Dublin, Accenture

1.15pm Lunch (The Iveagh Restaurant)