

Educational Technology at the Open University

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Transcript:

William Prescott:

Well Naomi has told you a little more about how IET was started, but where is it now?

The Institute is classified as a spending Unit. This means it's equal in status if not in size to the six faculties and the regional services.

Let's look at this in a little more detail. There's the director and the deputy director, both professors.

We can then split the functions of IET roughly into two: One is course development, primarily concerned with advice to course teams and faculties on course design. There are fourteen lecturers or senior lecturers assigned to this aspect of the work. The other is research into and evaluation of the University. There are nine senior lecturers, lecturers or research officers and a further eight research assistants working in research. It should be emphasised that this is a functional division. People working on course development do also carry out or assist on research and vice versa.

Research is organised as follows: First of all there is the Survey Research Department, headed by Naomi McIntosh. This is a semi-autonomous department responsible for both initiating student based research and for providing advice and guidance on survey type enquiries carried out within the University.

Then there are several studies of various aspects of the University's teaching system: Research into regional tuition and counselling, science education, broadcasting and related media, problems of examination and assessment and textual communication.