

## Unit Description

<b>Unit code</b>	ED50333
<b>Unit title</b>	Understanding Learners and Learning
<b>Unit provider</b>	Department of Education
<b>Aims &amp; Learning Objectives</b>	<p><b>Aims</b></p> <p>The aims of this unit are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider different perspectives on learning, on ways in which we learn and how learning can be supported;</li> <li>• Present the major families of learning theories and consider their strengths and weaknesses;</li> <li>• Recognise how approaches to teaching and instruction can be influenced by tacit and explicit learning theories;</li> <li>• Debate how knowledge gained about learning and learners can be applied in practical educational and training contexts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Objectives</b></p> <p>Having studied the unit, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• define learning from different theoretical and practical standpoints;</li> <li>• explain the key ideas contributed by psychologists and others to our understanding of the process of learning;</li> <li>• critically relate learning theories to their own ideas about learning;</li> <li>• critically evaluate how research on brain structure and function contributes to our understanding of learning;</li> <li>• identify individual differences in learning styles and preferences using a variety of approaches;</li> <li>• promote in their own learners the ability to understand their own thinking and learning using metacognitive and other approaches and strategies;</li> <li>• critically apply knowledge about learning and learners to their practice.</li> </ul>
<b>Content</b>	<p><b>Content</b></p> <p>The unit will address the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• major families of learning theories</li> <li>• implicit theories of learning</li> <li>• learning styles and preferences</li> <li>• learning about learning</li> <li>• brain-based learning</li> <li>• motivation and other factors affecting learning</li> <li>• learning in adults</li> </ul>