

# The Use of Immersive Virtual Worlds in Development Education

## Authors

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## Strategic Aims

The strategic aims of this research programme are:

- To create the virtual Islands with rich resources, artefacts and experiential learning experiences
- To promote and disseminate the work to related stakeholders and the ethos of the NGO's, ENGO's and related agencies
- To provide content and artefacts from global and local interested stakeholders and participating communities

## Research Focus

The Murias Islands are created for Teachers and Students to explore "Second Life" for use in the teaching and learning of concepts in Development Education.

The target groups for this research are Teacher Educators, Teachers, Student Teachers, and young people in formal and informal education.

"Second Life" is a massively multiplayer online game (MMOG) more information at: <http://secondlife.com/>



## Research Programme

**Funded by Irish Aid**

**Principal Investigator: Tim Savage**

The Research Programme is divided into the following vital streams:

- The creation of two islands: Teachers Island and Student Island populated with rich content from Development Education resources and provide areas for exploratory and structured learning experiences
- The creation, implementation, and evaluation of a series of training courses in the use of Immersive Virtual Worlds in Development Education
- An in-depth research evaluation of these implementations and their value to teaching and learning within a virtual environment and in a Development Education context to be undertaken and shared to all interested parties
- The pursuit of a rigorous research programme to establish best practice, identify gaps in the peer reviewed literature, and publish our own findings from the teaching and learning implementations

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