

## Sci-hooks

NUI Galway's School of Education recently developed and launched the Sci-Hook Series, an innovative APPLE iBook resource for science educators. Sci-Hooks are introductory video clips that aim to grab the learner's attention by capturing what is interesting and engaging about a range of science topics.

The series, which was launched on 20 November 2012 by Dr. Jim Browne, President, NUI Galway, forms part of the School of Education's mission to build collaborative and supportive partnerships with second-level schools.

**Sci-Hooks** are short, smart video clips that can be used to draw learners in and engage them at the beginning of a new science topic. They are based on Junior Science Topics, but they can be extended to Senior Cycle also. We developed them as iBooks for the mobile device platform and scoilnet/PDST were generous to build us a website, to host them on for larger dissemination [www.sciencehooks.scoilnet.ie](http://www.sciencehooks.scoilnet.ie) or itunes link:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/physics-resource-hooks/id549475578?mt=11&uo=4>

Dr Veronica McCauley and Seán Ó Grádaigh, lecturers from the School of Education led this Science Education Research (SER) project with a design team of student science teachers from NUI Galway's Professional Diploma in Education and Dioplóma Gairmiúil san Oideachas programmes. A collection of over 30 bilingual Sci-Hooks were created for the Junior Science classroom. Funding from NUI Galway, An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta (COGG) and Apple Ireland supported the project.

These Sci-Hook resources have been developed into a set of three iBooks - Physics, Chemistry and Biology, with over 10 videos and support material available in each category. In order to facilitate the distribution of these excellent science classroom resources on alternate platform to Apple, the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) have created a dedicated website within Scoilnet <<http://www.sciencehooks.scoilnet.ie>> for dissemination to teachers. This fully bilingual website was designed and developed by Scoilnet/PDST to allow the video files and support material to be available to all teachers nationally. They are also **free** to download on your iPad or other APPLE devices through the iBookstore and also available as videos and pdf on **iTunesU**. Sci-Hook Series had already received over 1000 downloads.