Educational challenge: Improve student experience on Moodle

Delivery of courses online can increase the flexibility for learners to study in their own time. This has its benefits but can also be challenging for students to manage their time, keep tracking of their studies and maintain self-motivation. The Moodle course site is the main interface where students interact with the course convenor, course content, activities and assessments. Therefore, it is important that the Moodle site is not only informative, but clearly structured, outlining what is expected of students each week and assisting them with planning for upcoming activities and assessments.

Solution: Clearly structured Moodle site

Properly structuring your Moodle course using an interactive timetable and a clean Moodle theme can help students with organisation and time management.

**Students** can:
- Have a clear overview of the course material and when activities/assessments are due
- Easily navigate to find relevant course material
- Track their progress

**Instructors** can:
- Release content periodically to guide students through course material throughout the term
- Track students’ progress and understanding

FAQ

**How can I set students’ expectations?**
- During the first lecture, introduce students to the Moodle course. Tell them how to navigate the site and outline where, when and how students can access resources, receive announcements, and ask questions throughout the term.

**What are the different ways I can deliver my Moodle course?**

- **Release content week by week.** Pros: allows the teacher to guide students through weekly course material, prevents students from becoming overwhelmed by informing them what they need to do each week. Cons: Students cannot read through course material or prepare in advance.
- **Provide all content materials at the beginning of the term.** Pros: gives students a quick overview of the whole course, increased flexibility in accessing course material. Cons: Students may find it difficult to track their progress.
- **Release content by two-three-week periods.** This approach combines the best aspects of the previous options. It allows students to easily keep track of their progress while letting them view and prepare for course content in advance.

Academic Support

- For educational design advice or help developing resources, please contact the team via the EDS Consultation form
- For technical enquiries please contact ETS

Templates/Guides

- Interactive timetable template
- Setting up an interactive timetable
- Setting up your Moodle course and theme (including adding your photo and contact details in a block)
- Enable activity completion for each activity
- Add date restrictions to Moodle topics to release weekly course content periodically
- Course shell template (*developed by the Science L&T team, PVCE and CoP*)

Accessibility Considerations

- To ensure that your Moodle course and resources are accessible for students with disabilities, please see the Accessibility solution packs.

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