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General Introduction of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

For some, “virtual” conjures up an artificial world that replaces real life. But virtual learning environments neither replace classrooms nor existing educational practices. They enhance them. They add value as they extend the space of the physical learning environment. They provide opportunities to stretch the imaginations of teachers and students alike.

Technically speaking, virtual learning environments are designed spaces that resemble architecturally sophisticated buildings. Think of an ideal place of teaching and learning, one where the messy desk covered in coffee-stained assessments and the equally large pile of lesson plans all moves to your laptop. Teachers effortlessly move between assessment, feedback, sharing and monitoring without knocking over their coffee in the process. Students have their assessments returned swiftly -- unstained.

A virtual learning environment offers not only an elegantly designed space for teaching and learning, but a place where learners, teachers and students feel at ease. A good VLE allows users to co-construct their learning environments together over time. With all that goes into a physical classroom – the lesson plans, the homework, the conversations – why not make use of virtual learning environment software to organise, share and process it all?

Far from being an anti-social space that replaces real life, the right VLE enhances the social space of a classroom. It opens possibilities for discussion threads, polls and surveys. It allows students to submit work without having to find their teachers. It provides hubs for an infinite number of resources in the form of documents, worksheets and Power Points. Using a VLE, teachers can link students to other online pathways and embed videos from YouTube, articles from newspapers and provide platforms for student-created podcasts. More than just a virtual repository for learning resources, the most valuable virtual learning environments and virtual learning software offer gateways to limitless pathways of connection, content and learning from which teachers, school leaders, students and parents all benefit.

Virtual learning at University of Whales Trinity:

Online and Digital Learning (MA) (Online)

The programme is delivered online and will be available to anyone who meets the entry requirements and is professionally engaged in eLearning development, online teaching, learning support, digital support or training practice using digital technology. It is highly relevant for professional practitioners who work in learning in a university or college, HRM, in business training, public sector services or for people considering moving into one of these areas.

The programme provides theory and practice through collaboratives of a range of learning technologies. It enables learners to explore the processes of designing and implementing technology-enhanced learning and issues concerning the practicalities of professional practice in their own context. It is the diversity of contexts that each student brings that significantly improves the content on the programme.

Why choose this course

1. The diversity of contexts offered on this collaborative online programme will widen your understanding and insights. All course content is provided online and students say the online library provides more than they need.
2. The online engagement is collaborative so you will never be isolated from others in your class or the tutors there to support you.
3. Part time and online combines your work with study with this fully online course that is taken by students from all over the world
4. There is no attendance requirements, so you take your studies and classroom with you wherever you are. Letting your mind do the travelling.

What you will learn

Course Overview

Technology led learning is continuing to grow at a phenomenal rate and the market for eLearning has exceeded \$52.6 billion in 2010. The development of professional qualifications to meet the personnel demands of this “star” industry are lagging demand. Online learning is the fastest growing educational sector and is foregrounded in staff development opportunities.

As an increasingly preferred approach for delivering training and education, the HE sector is now responding to the need for qualifications that underpin the professional status of this accelerating sector. This MA Online and Digital Learning programme is an online programme that is intended to attract a global student body.

Knowledge and understanding is achieved through learning activities that emphasise students’ engagement with research-led resources and dialogue and with each other

and their tutor. Resources are made available electronically from a range of different sources including: e-books, electronic journal articles, videos, images, numerical data, voice recordings, transcripts, web applications and web documents, available through the University's Virtual Learning Environment.

With a growing emphasis on the digital economy, the use of online and digital technology in learning, eLearning is increasing due to advantages in cost, flexibility, access and relevance due to an increasingly digital and global workforce. It is widely reported that learners/trainees want to see more technology-driven learning with emphasis on social and collaborative learning approaches. Technology use for online, digital and/or distance learning is no longer a specialist educational activity but is increasingly becoming a mainstream activity for both universities, training organisations and HRM functions within organisations.

Our students are education, learning and training practitioners. The programme is available as a part-time programme and is intended for those already in employment in a field related to the programme in question. Applicants would need to be practitioners engaged in any learning support, teaching or training practice. Students participating in the online programme will need to be able to draw from their own contexts and experiences to undertake activities and engage in online discussion, which draw from their own experiences in the interpretation of theory. Key groups would be higher and further education lecturers; human resources development employees responsible for organisational staff development; employees in a senior role with some responsible for staff development of employees; instructional designers and developers in commercial training organisations.

The programme is of course delivered through our online Virtual Learning Environment where you will get access to all your key learning activities, resources and your learning group using the latest communications tools and social media applications. Our University support services are on hand to guide you through your studies.

The programme provides opportunity for a stimulating learning experience led by staff informed by scholarship, professional practice and external engagement. The values of sustainable development, global citizenship and collaboration are central to the programme's content and learning approach.

This programme aims to develop creative learning designers and facilitators who will collaboratively address present global challenges and opportunities with the insights, skills and influences to shape the future of online and digital learning.

Students on the programme will develop knowledge and understanding of organisations, the external context in which they operate and their management through critical engagement with their own practice.

The University of Wales. Trinity Saint David has significant experience of supporting MA learners at a distance. As an online learner on the MA you will benefit from a programme of study that is designed to be relevant to your current work and ambitions. The programme will connect you with key arguments and issues facing organisations and with your online tutors you engage with other MA students across the world to address key challenges. You will be learning with other people in different locations and in different contexts, giving you an opportunity to experience a range of different approaches, practices and perspectives on sustainability in Business.

Assessment

Your assessments are based on practice in designing OLD and piloting and implementing your ODL design. All assessments will be submitted online and will build and reflect on the collaborative activity within the modules. The tutor will provide formative and summative feedback and will be available by email, telephone and/ or Office 356 Skype for further clarification of feedback if requested by the student. Progression and award will comply with the standard University regulations for Masters programs. Arrangement for re-sit work will be provided through the University VLE. All Assessment are individual coursework built on collaborative engagement in the weekly learning activities and/or related to individual professional contexts.

Questionnaire question:

- How important is face-to-face communication for you while learning remotely
- how often do you have a 1-1 discussion with your teacher
- What device do you use for distance learning? ...
- How much time do you spend each day on an average on distance education?
- How challenging has online learning been?
- How easy has it been the communication with your teacher?

Excel results:

1.

Please start with the survey now by clicking on the bottom below.

	Let's do it	7	
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2.

Your age group

	18 to 24	0	
	25 to 29	5	
	30 to 34	1	
	35 to 39	1	

3.

How important is face-to-face communication for you while learning remotely

	Extremely important	5	
	Somewhat important	1	
	Neutral	1	
	Somewhat not important	0	

4.

How often do you have a 1-1 discussion with your teacher

	Daily	2	
	Weekly	3	
	Monthly	1	
	Seasonal	1	

5.

What device do you use for distance learning? ...

	Laptop	4	
	Computer	3	
	Phone	0	

6.

How much time do you spend each day on an average on distance education?

	1-2 hours	5	
	2-3 hours	1	

	3-4 hours	1	
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7.

How challenging has online learning been?

	Not so easy	2	
	Somewhat easy	3	
	Very easy	0	
	Extremely easy	2	

8.

How easy has it been the communication with your teacher?

	Extremely good	0	
	Somewhat good	4	
	Neutral	2	
	Somewhat not good	1	

Here where you can find my survey:

<https://forms.office.com/r/B085Nd31Hv>



Microsoft Forms

References:

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