University of Huddersfield Repository

Folley, Susan and Ellis, Cath

Harnessing the Power of Distributed Learning: the potential benefits for Higher Education in the United Kingdom

Original Citation


This version is available at http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/7165/

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

- The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
- A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
- The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk.

http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/
Harnessing the Power of Distributed Learning:
the Potential Benefits for Higher Education in the United Kingdom.

Sue Folley
Learning Designer/Developer & Project Manager
University of Huddersfield
Context: TQEF Project

- 3 years funding
- Targeting 28 modules
- Supported curriculum development
- Focus on BA (Hons) Humanities Degree programme
- Offering money and support
What is Distributed Learning?

- Distributed student cohorts
- T&L dispersed across settings, time, and a variety of technologies
- Not distance learning, not traditional learning somewhere in between
- Student-centred learning environment:
  - uses flexible learning - *student choice and control*
Why Are We Using Distributed Learning?

Two Main Reasons

**Practical**
- New campuses
- Widening participation
- Small cohorts of students

**Strategic**
- ‘Petri dish’ approach
- Distributed cohorts force change in thinking
- Successes replicated on main campus
How Are We Using Distributed Learning?

Online activities

- Paper based resources
- Q&A Sessions

Video-conferencing

- Face-to-face classes

Blogs

Discussion boards

Screen-casting

- Film-making
- webinars

Learning objects

- Wikis
Case Study: Screen-casting
What Benefits Do These Strategies Bring?

- Development
- Reward
- Equivalence
- Research
- Collaboration
- Quality learning
- Flexibility
- Less travelling
- Less duplication
- Diversity
- Costs
- Viability

Quality

Staff

Institution

Students
What Have We Learned?

- It brings unexpected benefits
- It’s actually easier than many people think
- There are obstacles to overcome
- Efficiencies of scale increase with added campuses
Contact Details

Cath Ellis
Head of Humanities & Project Leader
University of Huddersfield
01484-471397
c.a.ellis@hud.ac.uk

Sue Folley
Learning Designer/Developer & Project Manager
University of Huddersfield
01484-472832
s.folley@hud.ac.uk