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

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Harnessing the Power of Distributed Learning:
the Potential Benefits for Higher Education in the United Kingdom.

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Context: TQEF Project

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

TQEF Distributed Learning Project
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
Learning objects

Wikis

Webinars

Film-making

Discussion boards

Screen-casting

Bloggs

Face-to-face classes

QA Sessions

Paper based resources

Video-conferencing

Online activities

How Are We Using Distributed Learning?
What Benefits Do These Strategies Bring?

- **Quality**
  - Development
  - Reward
  - Equivalence
  - Research
  - Collaboration

- **Efficiency**
  - Less travelling
  - Less duplication

- **Staff**

- **Institution**

- **Students**

- **Quality learning**

- **Flexibility**

- **University of Huddersfield**
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
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