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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

TQEF Distributed Learning Project

- Supported curriculum development
- Offering money and support
- Focus on BA (Hons) Humanities Degree programme
- 3 years funding
- Targeting 28 modules
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
- Video-conferencing
- Paper based resources
- Q&A Sessions
- Face-to-face classes
- Blogs
- Discussion boards
- Screen-casting
- Film-making
- Wikis
- Learning objects
- Webinars
What Benefits Do These Strategies Bring?

- Quality:
  - Development
  - Reward
  - Equivalence
  - Research
  - Collaboration

- Students:
- Staff
- Institution

- Efficiency:
  - Less travelling
  - Less duplication
  - Diversity
  - Costs
  - Viability

- Quality learning
- Flexibility
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

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