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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

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

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
How Are We Using Distributed Learning?

Online activities

Video-conferencing

Paper based resources

Face-to-face classes

Q&A Sessions

Discussion boards

Screen-casting

Film-making

Learning objects

Wikis

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

- **Quality**: Development, Reward, Equivalence, Research, Collaboration
- **Efficiency**: Less travelling, Less duplication, Diversity, Costs, Viability

**Students**

- **Staff**
- **Institution**

**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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