

# EDTL Student Perspectives: Tips for effective online teaching

Based on the webinar The Student Perspective of Online/Remote Teaching, featuring contributions from members of the EDTL student intern team, these are tips from students regarding online teaching during Covid-19.



## Communicate Effectively

- One of the main advantages of online learning is the flexibility it allows students, and it can make students' lives much easier if this is embraced, such as by recording and uploading lectures.
- Encourage students to contribute virtually by making an environment where they want to contribute, not one where they feel forced to do so.
- Students with their cameras on can make lectures feel that bit more 'normal', but this should not be a requirement as some students may feel it to be invasive.
- VLE communication features are much easier to use than email, and all students can benefit from the forum instead of just the initial sender.



## Utilise educational tools

- Utilise the VLE's features such as quizzes and the ability to link to external resources such as YouTube videos or news articles relevant to the module.
- Ensure you keep your module's VLE page organised. Whether this means dividing material by topic or date, it makes for much easier navigation.
- There are many guides available for each VLE and how to use them, these can be useful to both lecturers and students - especially when it comes to features related to assessment and assignment submission.



## Help your students stay on track

- Consider creating a sample lecture schedule if you are not hosting synchronous sessions. This allows students to keep on top of coursework without feeling overwhelmed. This guide can include related assignments, reading activities and even pre-reading for next week.
- Communicate with students if you will not be broadcasting/uploading a lecture on schedule.
- Consider creating a checklist of work expected that week. This could include lectures to watch, assignments due and recommended reading. This reduces students' anxiety about falling behind and makes it easier for them to create their own schedule.



## Assessments

- For group work, randomly assigning groups can ease the anxiety of students who have yet to get to know their coursemates virtually and especially international students. Methods such as placing at least one Erasmus student on each team can make group work less stressful and more beneficial all.
- It can be helpful to detail procedures about what to do if, for example, someone on the group becomes unreachable and other group members are worried that it will affect their grade.
- Assignments such as group essays can be difficult to operate online, and more structured assignments allow for work to be divided in a much more straightforward manner.
- Continuous assessment is much more suited to the online learning environment.



## Student Wellbeing

- When it comes to classes, tutorials or assignment submission - consistency is key!
- Perform check-ins at the beginning of your lecture to break the ice and put people at ease.
- Take short breaks in lectures - this gives everyone a chance to catch their breath and organise themselves.
- It can be beneficial to recap and summarise learning goals throughout a lecture rather than just at the end, this helps students remain engaged.

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