

Reflections on adaptable education in Economics - lessons learned for in-person teaching and learning

Prof Parama Chaudhury, Nadeer Hanfi (3rd year BSc Economics), Prof Cloda Jenkins, Tasnim Nodee (3rd year BSc Economics)



UCL Connected Learning, 2020-21

Connected Learning is UCL's distinctive approach to online, socially distanced or blended teaching, learning support and assessment during the Covid-19 pandemic.



Cross-programme structured approach for lecturers and students



Lecturer communication about week ahead

Assessments through term

Pre-live session self-directed async materials

Online office hours (group and individual)

Live interactive session with lecturer

Live interactive small group session with teaching assistant

Formative async self-directed activities to check learned embedded

Formative assignments for feedback

Cross-programme structured approach for lecturers and students



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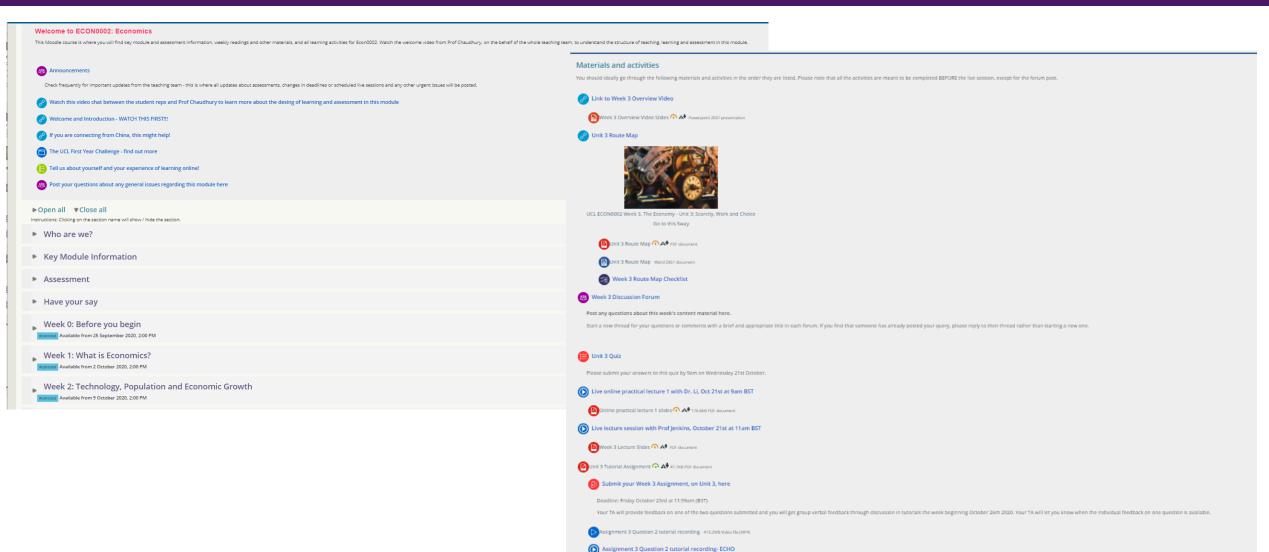
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Economics Connected Learning Baseline 'Classroom'





Tell us about your learning experience this week!



Advice on the Moodle page and underlying technologies

- Ensure structure and visual appeal of the various materials on course page
- Moodle page cannot work in isolation students need instructions and communication on relevance of activities
- Insights on value of asynchronous activities such as quizzes and discussion forums
- Tested different poll software options and summarized pros and cons of options

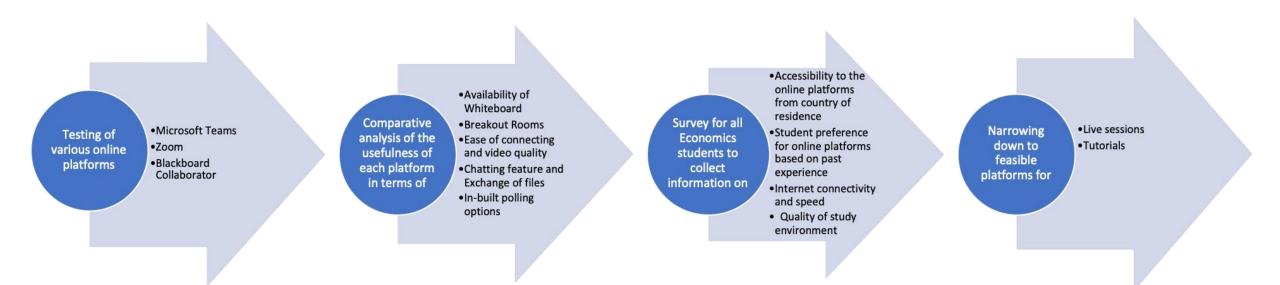


Advice on learning design and student engagement

- Emphasised value of flexible and accessible learning from asynchronous materials
- Suggested optimal duration and interactive structure for synchronous sessions
- Provided practical tips on how to engage students online in live sessions
- Suggested creation of study groups to encourage peer interaction and collaboration.



Test drive different technologies around the world





January 2021 – Connected Learning Leads and Connected Learning Interns Review of Term 1

- Student Focus Groups (all years)
- Student module feedback: mid-term and end-of-term
- Engagement data Moodle views and ECHO360
- Student reflection blogs (April/May)
- Lecturer feedback

Lecturers adapted really well, but it was a LOT to learn and a LOT of effort



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Echo360 ALP, Zoom, Teams, Mentimeter

Learning Design

The first 20-30 minutes of the live sessions are a mentimeter poll on the pre-recorded video material. For the remainder I solve exercises that use student data I collected

Support

CLLs set up and moderated the MS teams connected learning group which I found very valuable when I started teaching last term, and they always had the answer to all my questions.

I used the possibility of presenting recorded class-material as means to reduce the length of the class sessions and used that to offer that class-time multiple times over to smaller group

CLLs ran a programme of online demonstrations introducing colleagues to the various platforms and technologies available for online teaching and assessment. A well balanced mix of technical guidance and pedagogical advice

Student feedback on Moodle, async materials, activities and assessments



Diversification preferable to high stakes at end of year

- coordinate timing
- explain rationale
- assessment weeks?

Lecturer communication about week ahead

Assessments through term

Pre-live session selfdirected async materials

Appreciated flexibility— watch video length

Online office hours (group and individual)



Economics CLB template 20/21

Live interactive session with lecturer

Positive response – consistency across modules?

Live interactive small group session with teaching assistant

Formative async selfdirected activities to check learned embedded

Quizzes helpful learning check Discussion forums great

Formative assignments for feedback

Support group working Low completion rate for formative

Student feedback on live sessions, staff interaction and workload



Structure and support helpful – recognise staff effort

Lecturer communication about week ahead

Assessments through term

Pre-live session selfdirected async materials

Don't need to find the room Works well Online office hours (group and individual)



Economics CLB template 20/21

Live interactive session with lecturer

Like polls, interactivity, application of content, complement but don't replicate async materials

- best if smaller cohort

- best if confident with tech

Prefer F2F. Prefer cameras on. TA needs confidence with tech.

Live interactive small group session with teaching assistant

Formative assignments

Formative async selfdirected activities to check learned embedded

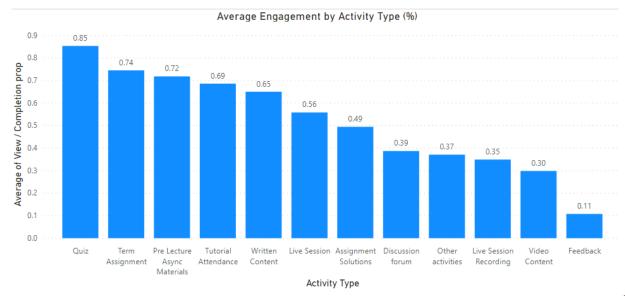
Higher workload compared to previous years?

More opportunity for interactions with upper years

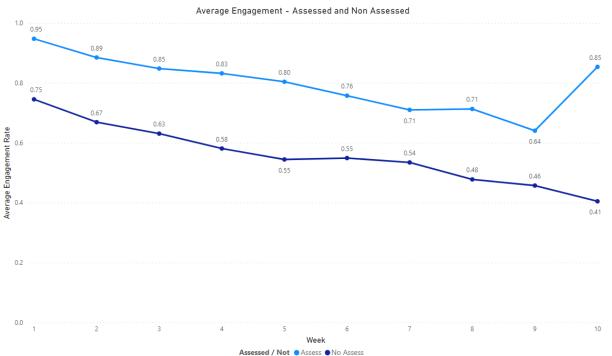
for feedback

Students mainly engaged with quizzes, assignments and asynch linked to live sessions



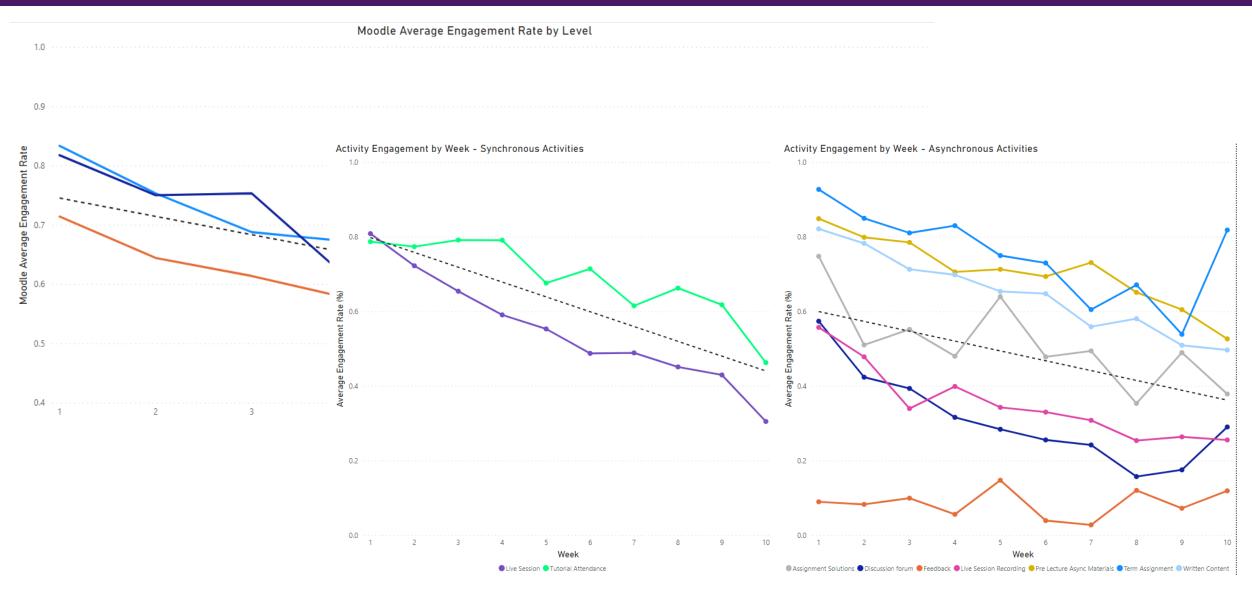


Making it count for assessment helps engagement



Engagement varied by year group and fell over the term







Positives

- Organisation of content
- Greater flexibility from recorded materials
- Encouraged to ask questions during live sessions and tutorials
- Lively discussion forums
- Good use of visualisers/tablets



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- Organisation of content
- Greater flexibility from recorded materials
- Encouraged to ask questions during live sessions and tutorials
- Lively discussion forums
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Challenges

- Difficult to communicate and interact with peers through video
- Difficult to stay motivated at home with the same schedule everyday
- Working long hours across two time zones

Moving forward with Adaptable Learning









Moving forward with Adaptable Learning: retaining the best of the model



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Moving forward with Adaptable Learning – learning from student partners



UCL Home » UCL Careers » UCL Connected Learning Internships

UCL Connected Learning Internships

UCL Connected Learning Internships are fully funded full and part-time opportunities working with UCL departments.



UCL Home » UCL Changemakers » ChangeMakers Projects

ChangeMakers Projects

Apply for either £450 or £700 in funding for staff and students to work in partnership on a project to enhance the student learning experience at UCL.

New BAME Awarding Gap funding for students

We are pleased to announce a new collabtoration between ChangeMakers, the BAME Awarding Gap project and Students' Union UCL to offer specific funding and support for student projects that address the disparities in outcomes and experience of undergraduate Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) and white students at UCL.

. Find out more and how to apply

UCL Home » You Shape UCL » Student Academic Representatives

Student Academic Representatives

Student Academic Representatives are appointed or elected in programmes, departments and faculties across UCL as the voice of their fellow students. They have the power to influence decisions at UCL.



CTaLE @CTaLE_UCL - 29 Mar

We're launching our new blog series, "Student Reflections," where students write about their experience of this past year, life/work lessons, and what they are looking ahead to.

Read on as Tasnim Nodee, Y3 BSc @EconUCL, shares her thoughts





Summer RA positions with CTaLE

Posted: Feb 16th 2021 Deadline: March 1st

We have been awarded a number of grants by the SHS Dean for education related research projects. As a result we are in a position to hire a number of RAs this summer. Please read all the information about the projects and the instructions on how to apply in this form. You apply for one project and can indicate a second preference.



Get in touch if you want to discuss

cloda.Jenkins@ucl.ac.uk

@UCLEconCareersT

@CTale_UCL