



Higher Education Dialogue Series

Every Wednesday
14.00-15.00 UK time

Join our interactive conversation

Background

As part of our #AtHome with the British Council campaign, and in response to the common challenges facing universities in the UK, globally and post Covid-19, we are convening a series of online dialogues for universities to discuss these challenges. The areas of concern with the most common interest were focused around models of distance learning, quality assurance of teaching online, the future of student mobility, and research collaboration at distance.

Dialogue Format

Every Wednesday at 14:00 UK time, a one-hour webinar from May to July. Attendance of 100-500 university representatives for each session, online and free of charge. A moderator and panel of 3 speakers. Each session will consist of a blend of short presentations and discussion designed to address the shared challenges and opportunities universities face in their response to Covid-19.

Expected Outcomes

- Participants will develop a greater understanding of their institutional challenges related to the impact of Covid-19 through a variety of perspectives.
- To identify what institutional changes might be required to adjust to the impact of Covid-19.
- To increase the connections between universities in the UK and globally with the view for potential collaboration.

7 May



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How ready are universities to use emerging technologies?

In a rapid response to Covid-19, universities around the world have tried to move quickly to online delivery. This is a real test on the university's readiness and willingness to utilise technology and digitalisation. Some were better prepared than others. In this session, we will hear experience from Azerbaijan, Ukraine, and the UK followed by a discussion on what universities have had to put in place to make this quick transition work and what challenges universities will face in the long run.

13 May



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Are campuses a thing of the past?

Covid-19 has had a significant impact on universities across the world. Higher Education institutions had to respond to the pandemic very quickly by moving teaching and learning online, which has received mixed feedback from the students and teachers. Lots of questions have been raised on the university's readiness and willingness to adopt new approaches in these challenging times. Will this change the role and function of universities in the long run? What do we need to do to be prepared for the future of universities and to meet new expectations from students and employers?

20 May



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What is the future of online assessment for universities?

Assessment online brings opportunities around designing more innovative assessments but also challenges around ethical concerns of access to technology as well as concerns associated with information integrity and test security. Furthermore, the extent to which technology-enhanced assessments are aligned to course outcomes/curricula and their role in the washback on teaching and learning are important areas to consider.

27 May

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What are future models for online learning?

In a matter of weeks, Covid-19 has changed how students are educated around the world and surprising innovations in the world of e-learning are underway. Therefore new partnerships are being formed, bringing together diverse stakeholders to digitalise platforms to deliver online learning. Will Covid-19 act as a catalyst for global educational institutes to find innovative solutions and how will they do this for the long term? Will these partnerships and new delivery models become the long-term trends and how do we ensure that they will be beneficial to the end-user, the learner? In addition, with over 60% of the globe's population online, how do education providers ensure the digital divide does not increase?

3 June

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How can universities engage with and motivate students?

As more and more universities move their teaching online, and with little indication when students may go back to the campus, how to effectively engage and interact with current students is becoming a big challenge. How do we know if a student is truly participating in the online learning? How can we continue to motivate and inspire the future generation? Join us for an engaging session with speakers from the UK and our region to hear from universities as they share their experiences of connecting with their students when face-to-face contact has reduced and, in some places, completely stopped.

10 June

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How do universities ensure quality teaching online?

Moving teaching online is more than just a switch to Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Together with the change of delivery platform, universities have to consider the pedagogy, methods, tools and models of online teaching in order to maximise the effect of virtual learning environment. How can universities ensure the quality to achieve satisfactory results for students and academic staff in regard to new model of teaching? Join us in this interactive session and find out more from the experience of universities and quality assurance agencies.

17 June



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What is the future of transnational education?

As demand for higher education outstrips supply globally, will the current situation accelerate the growth of transnational education? The fast transformation of delivery models means that higher education could be delivered through a wide variety of programmes and platforms (distance learning programmes, teaching partnerships, offshore campuses and, increasingly, MOOCs), what will be the new geographical spread of TNE and its impact? How will the current crisis influence the demand for distance learning? Join us in this session to discover changes in distance learning education policies, accreditation and recognition of online university programmes/degrees, and the future of TNE.

24 June



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How can universities support their academic staff?

The swift move to online teaching revealed skills gaps of the teachers. More so than ever before, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for academic staff will not only enable them to rise to the current challenge but also prepare them for the future, and must remain a focus of universities. Join us in this session where we will explore guidance of online professional development of academic staff, tools and resources in the current climate to support them including time management and wellbeing.

1 July



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Is studying abroad a thing of the past?

Many universities are already concerned about the student enrolment this autumn, especially some UK universities in with regard to international students. While the virus is still out there and the various travel restrictions in place, will students still want to study abroad? Domestically, will students be able to move to attend universities in other parts of the country? What is the future of student mobility in a post Covid-19 world? Join us in this session as we explore how the current Covid-19 crisis will affect the demand for student mobility in the long term.

8 July



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recording

How can academic relationships flourish when there's currently less physical mobility?

Universities grow stronger by enhancing knowledge exchange and collaboration with their counterparts domestically and internally. In a world with less physical mobility, how can we continue to support international academic collaboration? Will the world's databases be open to more groups of scientists and researchers as a result of COVID-19? Join us to explore the different ways universities, scientists, and researchers can still work closely together, even in times when travel is limited.

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