Digital Support Partnership Project (Learning and Teaching in Online Spaces): Project Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted higher education world-wide. The Digital Support Partnership project focuses on the lead up to Academic Year 2020–21 and will carry through to July 2021. Its intention is to ensure an engaging student learning experience which will facilitate the successful completion of modules and programmes. The project also recognises the need to attend to staff wellbeing in the face of continuing change and uncertainty. The intention of the project is to draw on the pedagogic evidence base and to build on learning deriving from arrangements introduced in Trimester 2, 2019/2020 to:

- Build on the collective experiences of colleagues to create enhanced online learning and teaching practices for our students in AY20/21 across the University

- Ensure staff are supported prior to and during the academic year

- Build student skills in working effectively as HE learners in online spaces

- Evaluate the impact of the workstreams to inform future strategic planning and operational practice

The project is sponsored by the Vice Principal (Learning and Teaching) and led by the Department of Learning and Teaching Enhancement (DLTE) in partnership with School and Professional Services staff. Time-bound and of critical importance to the University the project has specific deliverables and will need to draw into partnership student representatives, staff with specialised knowledge and skill in digital education, including Learning Technologists, the Global Online team, academic staff representing the Schools, and those who have particular interest/skill in inclusive learning and student support.

A full list of membership for the project board, team, workstreams, subject group representatives and learning technology advisors is available from **https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/dlte/DSP**

Digital Support Partnership

WORKSTREAM 1
CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY PLANNING

Will centre on ensuring student engagement enabling effective learning in the context of the overall programme and its learning outcomes. Workstream 1 will focus on the importance of establishing and maintaining educator-student relations and communications, and cohort community-building. The partnership will identify and disseminate a range of suitable approaches for providing equitable provision of learning opportunities for students which reflect the signature pedagogies of the Schools and subject groups.

WORKSTREAM 2
STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Working with workstream 1, digital pedagogies and digital tools skills will be identified as training and development opportunities for the partners in the first instance, and then rolled out to their wider subject groups as required, with support from Professional Services.

WORKSTREAM 3
STUDENT PARTICIPATION, ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Use evidence and expertise, both from staff and from students, to better understand the impact of the move to online learning on our student body. Ensuring that we are as inclusive and accessible as possible, both now and in the future, in our approaches to learning, life skills development and support.

Project Deliverables

- University-wide agreement regarding what will/will not ensure student engagement to enable effective learning in the context of the overall programme and its learning outcomes.

- The co-creation by the partnership of Edinburgh Napier online learning guidelines which value alternative approaches to ensuring a quality student engagement and learning experience.

- Identification of key development requirements for students and staff and the co-ordination of appropriate training or coaching.

- Evidence that all modules within the academic year 2020–21 meet agreed University expectations.

- Evidence of steps taken to ensure staff and student health and wellbeing is supported during potential ongoing disruption of face-to-face delivery of modules during academic year 2020–21.

- Documentation and evaluation of the project with recommendations for future years.

Further information is available at
https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/dlte/dsp