

Best practices when transitioning quickly to online education

Mark Zarb, SISCAs Director of Education has, with the following colleagues, recorded a webinar on best practices when transitioning quickly to online education: Danai Korre (Edinburgh), Areti Manataki (Edinburgh), Rachel Menzies (Dundee), Judy Robertson (Edinburgh) and Jeremy Singer (Glasgow).

In it, they deal with all manner of topics (suggested by the community), and hope that this will be a good resource in the days to come:

https://youtu.be/r2AGZHCM0_s

The webinar roughly follows a three-point structure:

1. Migrating to Online Teaching
2. Considerations during the Module
3. Pastoral Care

Let us know what you think – in particular, whether you would like to see more of this style of content emerge from the Education community – or whether you want to be involved in its creation.

Feel free to circulate far and wide.

Some non-tech things to consider in the event of switching to online

In [my previous post](#), I listed some EdTech tools and services available to you in the event of disruption to campus-based activities – such as the current COVID-19 epidemic.

I would like to take this opportunity to list a few non-tech things to consider for the same scenario.

Communications

- Think about how you communicate with your students at present. How much do you rely on face-to-face communication? What are you going to use in place of this?
- Related to the above, it's very easy for your message to be misinterpreted. Be clear, and say more than you think is necessary, to ensure students are clear about what you are asking of them. Check discussion boards regularly to get on top of mistaken beliefs early. Oh, and be friendly!
- If you don't already have an online discussion board for your class, set one up now. There are various options – please [get in touch](#) for further guidance.

Managing online synchronous classes

- Running an online class takes longer than a face-to-face class – both in preparation and in class management. Build this in to your timetable now.
- Related to the above, if you are delivering a lecture / presentation in real-time online, you will need someone to manage the back channel of questions and discussions. Identify a TA or someone suitable who could perform this

role now.

Recording lectures for online delivery

- If you have prepared a one hour, or two hour lecture, consider breaking this down before recording. Breaking up your lecture into smaller chunks (eg 20 minutes) will be easier for you (less editing required in post) and more digestible for your students.
- See [previous post](#) for the various supported tools available to you for recording lectures / smaller classes.

Further support

- Consider offering online office hours. I shall be running an Informatics Learning Technology service office hour. This will be online, via Blackboard Collaborate and will be every week day 10-11am. You can access here (Chrome or Firefox are the recommended browsers):
<https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/47b0a9ad52514aa28667b3dfab10b727>

Teaching and assessing online

This is a reminder of the tools and services available to you in the event of disruption to campus based activities, such as the current COVID-19 epidemic.

If your **students** can't access campus

- If students can't come to lectures, they can access the lecture recordings via the Lecture Recordings link in [Learn](#). Please note: this is only for those lectures delivered in a [centrally supported room](#).

- Any room which supports lecture recording, also supports Live Streaming. Please [get in touch](#) if you would like to enable live streaming of your lectures.
- For those courses requiring to use submit, students can download and install [Virtual DICE](#) or remote access to normal DICE machines via [XRDP](#) or SSH. Please log a call with [computing help](#) for further information.
- For those courses which don't require to use submit, remember that Learn has an [assignment tool](#) which will more than likely meet your needs. The Informatics Learning Technology Service can help with this – please [get in touch](#).

If *you* can't access campus

- The same product used for lecture recording at scale across campus (Echo360) has an application users can download from the website. Please note: the application is only available for Mac and PC. If you require a loan device, please [get in touch](#).
- The Echo360 application – called Universal Capture – allows you to capture audio, screen + video. You can then publish direct to your course via the recording interface. This means students will access your recording in the same place as recordings of campus based lectures. See the bottom of the page for links to video and written guidance.
- The Echo360 player (the interface students use to watch lecture recordings) also has a nice feature where they can ask questions at specific points in the presentation. The lecturer can then review these and answer questions in the appropriate context. See [Media Hopper Replay: Q&A discussions, flagging confusing content, and bookmarking](#) for further guidance.
- You may want to deliver smaller, tutorial sized classes via [Blackboard Collaborate](#). Collaborate sessions can be scheduled via MyEd or Learn. All sessions run in the

browser (Chrome is recommended) and so there's no need to worry about user devices.

Further Help

In addition to local help via the Informatics Learning Technology service, Blackboard are running sessions on **Tuesday 10 March** called "Preparing to scale online teaching and learning during Coronavirus". This webinar is for anyone involved in administering or delivering teaching and learning, including but not limited to system administrators, eLearning technologists, IT managers, Heads of Teaching and Learning, faculty and academic staff. Register here: <http://bit.ly/COVID-19EURUG>

Media Hopper Replay's universal capture tool – video instructions

Media Hopper Replay's Universal Capture tool – Mac

http://www.docs.is.ed.ac.uk/skills/documents/Lecture%20Recording/Guides/3873_v2.pdf

Media Hopper Replay's Universal Capture tool – Windows

http://www.docs.is.ed.ac.uk/skills/documents/Lecture%20Recording/Guides/3872_v2.pdf

Media Hopper Replay: Q&A Discussions, flagging confusing content and bookmarking

<http://www.docs.is.ed.ac.uk/skills/documents/Lecture%20Recording/Guides/3887.pdf>

An Instructor's guide to Media Hopper Replay: Viewing course and student analytics

https://media.ed.ac.uk/media/An+Instructor%27s+guide+to+Media+Hopper+ReplayA+Viewing+course+and+student+analytics/1_rs96etgi