

Survey on online higher education and the use of digital technologies

What is this project about? The University of Leeds and the University of Cape Town need your help for a research project. The project aims to understand student perceptions of the use of digital technologies in learning and of how online learning affects higher education in South Africa.

What kind of data will be collected? We will ask questions about a range of topics:

- Your views on and experiences of higher education as a student.
- Your use of digital technologies in the learning process.
- Your perceptions of the changes that digital technologies and online learning present to higher education.
- Your perceptions of the relationship between higher education institutions and private providers.

All responses will be completely anonymous. We will not share your data with commercial organisations.

We will **not** collect sensitive personal data (i.e. religious beliefs, political opinions, health, sexual orientation, membership of past organisations).

Participation in this survey will take 10 -15 minutes.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR HELP

SECTION I

1. If you agree to participate in the study based on the information provided, please provide your consent by selecting the following statement:

I agree to participate in this study and have understood the information provided.

2. Which of the following digital devices do you own? Tick all that apply:

- Desktop computer
- Laptop
- Tablet/iPad
- Smartphone
- e-Reader (e.g. Kindle)
- Mobile telephone (not smartphone)
- None
- Other

2.a. If other, what?

3. Which of the following digital devices do you have access to through the university (on or off campus). Tick all that apply:

- Desktop computer
- Laptop
- Tablet/iPad
- Smartphone
- e-Reader (e.g. Kindle)
- Mobile telephone (not smartphone)
- None
- Other

3.a. If other, what?

4. When you started your university education, did you feel prepared to use digital devices for learning?

- Yes
- No

5. When you started your university education did you receive training in any of the following? Tick all that apply:

- Basic use of a computer
- ICT skills
- Use of internet for searching and researching
- Online communication (email)
- Online digital presence (social media)
- Digital creation (web design, video production)
- None

6. Do you feel confident using digital technologies for learning?

- Yes
- No

7. How do you get online? Tick all that apply:

- Data (e.g. 3G, 4G)
- Wifi
- Internet cafe
- Cable / Broadband / Fibre optic
- None
- Other

7.a. If other, how?

8. Which of the following online resources do you access for learning? Tick all that apply:

- Course materials in the learning management system / VLE
- Online reading materials from the library (e-textbooks, journals, Jstor, Taylor&Francis)
- Learning resources on the Internet (e.g. Youtube clips)
- Collaborative documents (e.g. GoogleDocs)
- None
- Other

8.a. If other, what?

9. For which aspects of your university course do you use digital technologies? Tick all that apply:

- Preparation for classes
- Class assignments (e.g. papers, presentations, take home exams)
- Practical activities (e.g. labs, coding, stats, QDA software)
- Online communication (e.g. email)
- Group work (e.g. collaborative documents)
- In class interaction (e.g. clickers, mobile voting tools/apps)
- None
- Other

9.a. If other, what?

SECTION II

10. Which of these have you heard of? Tick all that apply.

- Free online course (e.g. webinars, Massive Open Online Courses)
- Paid online courses (e.g. GetSmarter courses)
- Full online degrees (e.g. MA degrees)
- None (then skip questions 11, 12 and 13)

10.a. Which ones:

11. If you have heard of online courses/degrees (Question 10), have you taken one of these? Tick all that apply:

- Free online course (e.g. Massive Open Online Courses)
- Paid online courses (e.g. GetSmarter)
- Full online degrees (e.g. MA)
- None
- Does not apply (answered NO to Q10)

12. If you have taken online courses/degrees (Question 11), what motivated you to take one? Tick all that apply:

- Learn new things
- Learn more flexibly
- Try out learning online
- Interact with other people
- Try out new subject
- Improve my career prospects
- Find out more about the university
- Prepare for further studies
- Help my existing studies
- No expectations
- Other
- Does not apply (answered NO to Q10)

12.a. If other, what?

13. If you are aware of online courses / degrees, who offers the ones you know of? Tick all that apply:

- Public universities
- Private universities
- Private companies
- Public universities and private companies working together
- Private universities and private companies working together
- I do not know
- Does not apply (Answered NO on Q10)

14. What has motivated or might motivate you to consider taking an online course/degree? Tick all that applies:

- More time to do paid work
- More time for family
- Less time traveling/commuting to university
- Shorter study time (per week)
- Shorter courses
- Flexible start dates
- Reduced cost (fees)
- Development of digital skills
- Online community
- Not to have to go on campus while protests are going on
- None
- Other

14.a. If other, what?

15. What would motivate you to take a specific online course? Tick all that applies:

- University brand
- Course branding
- Expertise of faculty / teacher
- Up to date content
- Familiarity with university/platform that provides it
- How popular the university/platform is that provides it among employers
- Other

15.a. If other, what?

16. If you see any risks in taking only online short courses instead of a full campus-based university degree, what are they? Tick all that apply:

- I don't think short courses chosen by a student can replace a full degree program put together by faculty members.
- Online courses are often taught by staff with insufficient academic training
- Online courses mean less teacher contact time
- Online courses that are not part of full degrees are not taken seriously by employers
- Online courses that are not part of full degrees are not taken seriously by lecturers
- When public universities offer online courses they behave as businesses
- You don't get to meet your peers face to face.
- I see no risks
- Other

16.a. If other, what?

17. Do you think a future employer will value a certificate you obtained from a free online course as highly as a campus course? Pick one:

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

18. Do you think a future employer will value a certificate you obtained from a full online course as highly as a campus-based university degree? Pick one:

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

19. If you could get a well-paid job by doing online courses, would you still do a campus-based university degree?

- Yes
- No

20. What are the benefits of doing a campus-based university degree over an online course? Tick all that apply:

- Time spent on campus/with peers
- Face-to-face interaction with faculty
- Extra-curricular activities
- Access to physical facilities
- If you can live on campus you are independent from your parents
- Employers take the campus-based university degree more seriously
- Recruiters come to campuses
- None
- Other

20.a. If other, what?

SECTION III

21. How old are you?

22. Gender

- Female
- Male
- Other

23. Race

- Black
- Coloured
- Indian
- White
- Other

24. Where do you study?

Options Anonymised

24.a. Campus

25. Subject field?

- Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences & Law
- Medicine & Health
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)
- Business
- Other

26. Level of study

Please don't select more than 1 answer(s) per row.

Level of study	Undergraduate	Postgraduate
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

27. Year of study in university education

Please don't select more than 1 answer(s) per row.

	1	2	3	4	5	over 5
Year of study	<input type="checkbox"/>					

28. Type of program

- Distance
- Campus
- Fully online
- Other

28.a. If other, what?

29. Do you work while studying?

- Yes, full-time
- Yes, part-time
- No

30. How do you fund your studies?

- NSFAS
- Study loan other than NSFAS (e.g. from a bank)
- Government bursary (e.g. Funza Lushaka)
- Private bursary from future employer or other
- Scholarship award
- Self-funded (work & study)
- Funded by family
- Other

30.a. If other, how?

THE END

Thank you!