

# Survey on online higher education and the use of digital technologies

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**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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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!