UCL Connected Learning Programme Readiness Self-Toolkit

Learning materials

1. **The overarching approach to the success of the programme (or module) operating predominantly remotely has been considered, discussed and agreed with all programme teaching and support staff**
2. **The didactic or ‘taught’ materials have been converted to appropriate formats to provide a good remote learning resource for learners**
3. **Practical, discussion-based and other non-didactic activities have been converted into alternatives that can be effective remotely**
4. **Any face to face sessions that must continue have been reconsidered and re-organised in accordance with social distancing and rooming restrictions**
5. **There is clear guidance throughout to signpost students through the materials in a logical manner, with both introductions and summary sections**
6. **The programme (or module) assessments as a whole, as well as individual assessments, have been reviewed and modified**

Top tips for how to achieve readiness in this domain:

* 50 minute lectures, online, do not facilitate good student engagement. Using previous years’ Lecturecast recordings should be avoided where possible.
* Create small segments (no more than 15 minutes) based around topics and themes. Pre-record these. Think accessibility: use the captioning functionality to ensure all students can engage. Signpost their connectedness.
* Remote teaching is effective when students are active participants rather than passive recipients. Mix didactic content with discussions, individual exercises, group work, synchronous and asynchronous delivery, and academic support and feedback integrated with learning.
* Keep videos simple, using UCL supported software to ensure all students can access the material. Ensure automatic subtitling is turned on to create accessible material quickly. Corrections to subtitles, if required, need only be limited to those that are key to student learning (e.g. scientific terms).
* Ensure diverse examples, cases and resources are used so all students can connect to the programme resources.
* Remote learning requires regular check points with rapid feedback. Build self-testing (with model answers and general feedback points) into sessions.
* Any practical activities in term 1 should be replaced with alternatives where possible.
* Face to face invigilated exams (central or department organised) should be reviewed, removed and alternatives set in their place.

Key resources to achieve readiness in this domain:

* Link to New ARENA staff development course [*Connected Learning Essentials*](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fucl.us14.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3De17931e8c6ef91ce2d5db50d7%26id%3Db592234c0c%26e%3D6a79647f20&data=02%7C01%7C%7C40cfb750a0904128f92608d80c610566%7C1faf88fea9984c5b93c9210a11d9a5c2%7C0%7C0%7C637272958129519660&sdata=XT5tn5%2F8tD5B3BctqJfTrPZCni36xVybQcMVHtlWZ%2F0%3D&reserved=0)
* [Link: How to videos](https://wiki.ucl.ac.uk/display/UCLELearning/Teaching+Continuity+Support+Videos) for Lecturecast Universal Capture Personal, Turnitin, Blackboard Collaborate
* Remotely delivered [Active learning](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/teaching-learning/publications/2019/aug/active-learning) should focus on asynchronous activities. These include group discussions in a forum, student presentations, which can be pre-recorded, quizzes, problem solving, and short formative test and tasks. A [full list of interactive activities](https://wiki.ucl.ac.uk/display/MoodleResourceCentre/M55+-+H5P+Interactive+Activities) that can be incorporated directly into Moodle through the H5P plug-in. These can be added to Moodle by adding and Interactive Activity.
* Quick Guides: [Getting started with teaching online](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/teaching-learning/teaching-continuity/moving-online-teaching-and-supervision/teaching-online-where-start) [Alternatives to face to face lectures](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/teaching-learning/teaching-continuity/moving-online-teaching-and-supervision/online-alternatives-lecturing)
* Sources for [pre-prepared digital content](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/teaching-learning/teaching-continuity/moving-online-teaching-and-supervision/academic-content-and-individual-study)
* [Getting Started with alternative assessments](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/teaching-learning/teaching-continuity/assessments-progression-and-awards/getting-started-alternative-assessments) and [Guide to Digital Assessments](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/teaching-learning/digital-education/digital-assessment)
* Your Faculty will also have it’s own repository (e.g. Moodle, Teams, Wordpress) of remote teaching best practice for your discipline. Contact your Arena Teaching Fellow or Connected Learning Lead for more information.

Learning experience

1. **Ways of encouraging active engagement of students with the material and with their peers and tutors have been considered and incorporated**
2. **The departmental or programme welcome, induction and orientation has been designed for both newcomers and returners to create connections to students and between students in this new mode of delivery**
3. **Enrichment and co-curricular activities have been considered and included**
4. **Expectations for learning and engagement are consistently clear and available (for staff and students) so everyone knows what they can expect, what they need to do and when**

Top tips for how to achieve readiness in this domain:

* Be explicit about expectations at programme, module and session level: describe study schedule and times for synchronous work, expected levels of engagement and attendance, how Moodle will be used, expectations about expected learning effort/time for activities, any additional requirements for this study (e.g. software, external reading, equipment).
* Programme and module Moodle sites should contain an introductory paragraph or a brief video explaining objectives, what will happen, how, sequencing, modes of learning and where to find timetables, chat rooms etc.
* Consider setting up peer learning and peer study groups inside and outside classroom. Include some ‘live’ enrichment activities (mindful of learners, their geography etc.) Use links with students in later years.
* Think about learning time as well as contact hours: ensure adequate contact time but do not set unrealistic expectations around learning time.
* Asynchronous teaching does not mean passive teaching: build in activities for students to interact with materials, each other and the teacher.
* Think about your student population and the needs of specific students: make your activities inclusive by design, identify appropriate role models and give explicit explanation of networks and peer support available (BME, Disabled Students’ Network).
* Review *Countdown to UCL/ Return to UCL* and think how this can be supplemented with departmental/programme specific activities to create understanding of the department and a sense of community.
* Consider setting up a Virtual Common Room using a platform already in use in the programme
* Insert some fun/getting to know you activities, and use (or set up) your departmental society and reps. Remember PGT learners need a more tailored approach but are still new to UCL.
* Careers, networking, and co-curricular activities are an important part of the UCL experience: consider how these can remain part of your planned activities.
* Ensure tutors use photos in messaging and platforms and consider producing brief biogs/interesting things about me and encourage students to do the same.

Key resources to achieve readiness in this domain:

* Link to New ARENA staff development course [*Connected Learning Essentials*](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fucl.us14.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3De17931e8c6ef91ce2d5db50d7%26id%3Db592234c0c%26e%3D6a79647f20&data=02%7C01%7C%7C40cfb750a0904128f92608d80c610566%7C1faf88fea9984c5b93c9210a11d9a5c2%7C0%7C0%7C637272958129519660&sdata=XT5tn5%2F8tD5B3BctqJfTrPZCni36xVybQcMVHtlWZ%2F0%3D&reserved=0)  which provides examples of icebreakers, building community, setting expectations, inclusive practice
* How to use interactive features on [Blackboard Collaborate](https://wiki.ucl.ac.uk/display/CRC/Blackboard+Collaborate+Resource+Centre)
* Guidance from ISD on [Creating Accessible Content](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/isd/services/websites-apps/creating-accessible-content)
* This UCL Digital Education blog discusses [Accessibility and Remote Teaching](https://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/digital-education/2020/03/13/accessibility-and-teaching-continuity/)
* [Transition Mentors](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/academic-support/transition-mentors) for undergraduate programmes
* Information on [personal tutoring,](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/teaching-learning/teaching-resources/personal-tutoring) including a link to the new UCL Personal Tutoring staff development online course, [and top tips for remote tutoring](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/teaching-learning/case-studies/2020/jun/checklist-remote-supervision-and-personal-tutoring).
* [Countdown to UCL](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/new-students/countdown-ucl) pages provide a landing site for students coming to UCL
* Advice on setting up a [Virtual Common Room](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/teaching-learning/teaching-resources)

Learner & staff support

1. **The programme or module Moodle site has been adapted to meet the new baseline to support engagement with on-line delivery including 100% electronic reading lists**
2. **Communications (who, what and how) with students from pre- entry to induction have been considered and planned**
3. **The support structures to ensure students have accessible academic and personal support while operating remotely have been established and communicated to staff and students**
4. **There are clearly defined and communicated roles and responsibilities for all teaching support staff including PGTAs**
5. **Relevant staff development has been initiated/completed**

Top tips for how to achieve readiness in this domain:

* Use a Moodle template, or design the Moodle site mindful of navigation from a student perspective. Consider clarity and signposting, curation, and accessibility.
* Start conversations early with session leads about core reading and ensure 100% is available on line – preferably embedded as hyperlinks in Moodle.
* Identify who is responsible for communicating to all students pre entry, at entry and at induction and align to central communications where possible.
* Ensure clarity of roles and expectations for Teaching Administrators and PGTAs and communicate clearly to students.
* Clarify responsibilities around following up all non-engagement to avoid academic failure, and ensure staff have time to proactively carry out these roles.
* Create a countdown/welcome back message, or series of messages for new/returning students. Review *Countdown to UCL*/ *Return to UCL* and ensure consistency of messaging. Acknowledge this is not what they had hoped for but we will ensure it is a great start for all.
* Consider how remote working may have affected your support structures. Be explicit about the availability of support (office hours, how personal tutoring works, who to ask for what, how to access student reps, how to raise concerns) to students and staff.
* Ensure the student evaluation questionnaire(s) is on line and consider adding Unitu to your tools for getting and responding to feedback from students and reps.
* Be mindful of the variation in access to resources and a suitable setting for learning of all students and ensure support of students with additional needs are considered proactively.
* Expect Module Convenors, teaching staff, Lead Teaching Administrators & PGTAs to engage with support via the New ARENA staff development course *Connected Learning Essentials,* andthe department Connected Learning lead, and the faculty’s Arena Teaching Fellow.

Key resources to achieve readiness in this domain:

* Link to New ARENA staff development course [*Connected Learning Essentials*](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fucl.us14.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3De17931e8c6ef91ce2d5db50d7%26id%3Db592234c0c%26e%3D6a79647f20&data=02%7C01%7C%7C40cfb750a0904128f92608d80c610566%7C1faf88fea9984c5b93c9210a11d9a5c2%7C0%7C0%7C637272958129519660&sdata=XT5tn5%2F8tD5B3BctqJfTrPZCni36xVybQcMVHtlWZ%2F0%3D&reserved=0)
* All programme/module Moodle sites should meet the [Connected Learning Baseline](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/teaching-learning/publications/2020/may/ucl-connected-learning-baseline)
* How to create a [ReadingList@UCL](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/library/teaching-learning-services-tls/readinglistsucl/readinglistsucl-teaching-staff)
* A [list of one hour online staff development sessions](https://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/digital-education/2020/03/13/teaching-continuity-staff-development-sessions-for-moodle-lecturecast-and-collaborate/) for Moodle, Lecturecast and Blackboard Collaborate.
* The [UCL Digital Education wiki](https://wiki.ucl.ac.uk/display/MoodleResourceCentre/Miniguides) gives very comprehensive guides to all technical aspects of Moodle
* [Setting up on line SEQs and using Unitu](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/teaching-learning/teaching-resources)

Programme Readiness Self-Assessment

**Programme or module name:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Criterion | RAG status & required actions | RAG status & required actions | RAG status & required actions |
| LEARNING MATERIALS | Progress review 1: (any date chosen by the teaching team) | Progress review 2: | Progress review 3: |
| 1. The overarching approach to the success of the programme (or module) operating predominantly remotely has been considered, discussed and agreed |  |  |  |
| 1. The didactic or ‘taught’ materials have been converted to appropriate formats to provide a good remote learning resource for learners |  |  |  |
| 1. Practical, discussion-based and other non-didactic activities have been converted into alternatives that can be effective remotely |  |  |  |
| 1. Any face to face sessions that must continue have been reconsidered and re-organised in accordance with social distancing and rooming restrictions |  |  |  |
| 1. There is clear guidance throughout to signpost students through the materials in a logical manner, with both introductions and summary sections |  |  |  |
| 1. The programme (or module) assessments as a whole, as well as individual assessments, have been reviewed and modified |  |  |  |
| LEARNER EXPERIENCE | RAG status & required actions | RAG status & required actions | RAG status & required actions |
| 1. Ways of encouraging active engagement of students with the material and with peers and tutors have been incorporated |  |  |  |
| 1. The departmental or programme welcome, induction and orientation has been designed for both newcomers and returners to create connections to students and between students in this new mode of delivery |  |  |  |
| 1. Enrichment and co-curricular activities have been included |  |  |  |
| 1. Expectations for learning and engagement are consistently clear and available |  |  |  |
| LEARNER AND STAFF SUPPORT | RAG status & required actions | RAG status & required actions | RAG status & required actions |
| 1. The programme or module Moodle site has been adapted to meet the new baseline - including 100% electronic reading lists |  |  |  |
| 1. Communications with students from pre- entry to induction have been considered and planned |  |  |  |
| 1. The academic and personal support structures have been established and communicated to staff and students |  |  |  |
| 1. There are clearly defined and communicated roles and responsibilities for all teaching support staff including PGTAs |  |  |  |
| 1. Relevant staff development has been initiated/completed |  |  |  |