

Title: **See you online next time: Techniques for online teaching and collaboration using webinar and desktop conferencing tools.**

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Session Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- Identify and try out interactive webinar techniques for teaching
- Experience being a participant in a collaborative webinar
- Use video and other tools to communicate online
- Evaluate your own skills in using webinar tools

Session Outline

The increased ease of use of video communication over the Internet e.g. Skype means that academic staff and students are more familiar with using this method of communication which may have contributed to the increased use of it in education.

However there are specific considerations for its use as a teaching tool and there are skills that both academics and students can develop to ensure the experience is a rewarding one.

The article Get Face Time (Bowdler, 2013) published on the Educational Vignettes Blog, outlines the reasons for the growth in popularity and gives examples of use in both synchronous and asynchronous communication - in traditional, blended and distance learning contexts. The article, compiled by Educational Technologists from the Learning Enhancement and Development (LEaD) team at City University London (City) drew on examples from City and was intended to share practice across the University.

Development areas that have been identified by educators reflect the challenges of designing and delivering any learning activities online, or E-tivities (Salmon, 2002) as explored in Gilly Salmon's guide for "active online learning" for example planning and delivering online activities, designing activities using collaboration tools, engaging an online audience and anticipating online behaviours.

For the staff development community, knowledge and understanding the elements of this type of practice is of interest, it can contribute to the development of both academics' ability teach online and fostering learners preparedness to learn online (Beetham, 2014) which can be considered as a dimension of digital literacies.

This workshop will be facilitated by educational technologists from LEaD at City. It aims to introduce techniques for online teaching using webinar and desktop conferencing tools. It will demonstrate learning activities that are used by academics at the University using the Adobe Connect system, but can be applied to any of the commonly used communication technologies.

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

The outline of the workshop is as follows;

Access to an online collaborative space will be provided for the conference and participants will be invited to try it out during and for up to 2 weeks after the conference.

The workshop aims to address the following, choosing the best tools and activities to accomplish the learning task and getting to grips with running a webinar.

Pre and post conference activity – online discussion in collaborative space

Workshop 45 minutes

- Introduction – 10 mins
- Guided exploration of learning activities and collaborative exercises using Adobe Connect 9.2 - 30 mins
- Quick review of the activities – 5 mins

References

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