



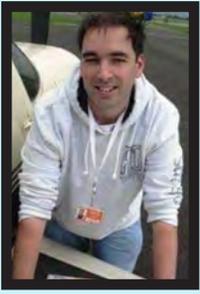
Digital Excellence Impact Case Studies

2021/2022

An Introduction to Adverse Childhood Experiences
and Trauma in Education and Early Development
CPD Programme - Online Course Development

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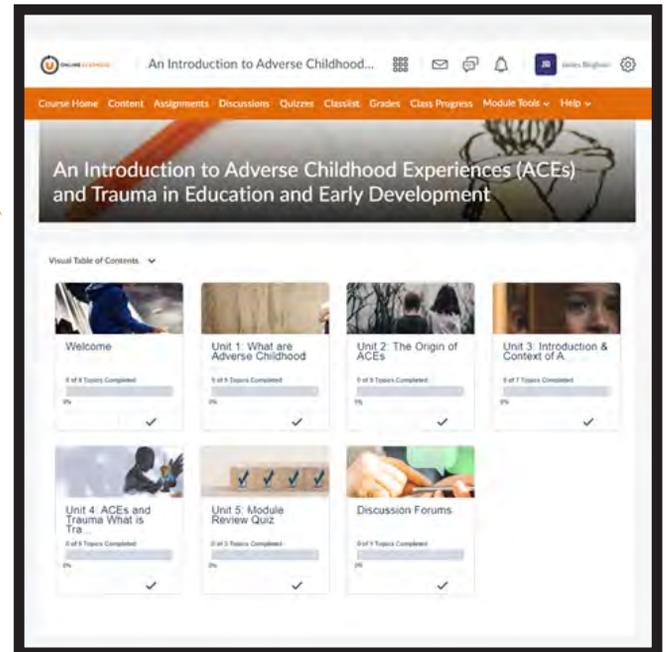
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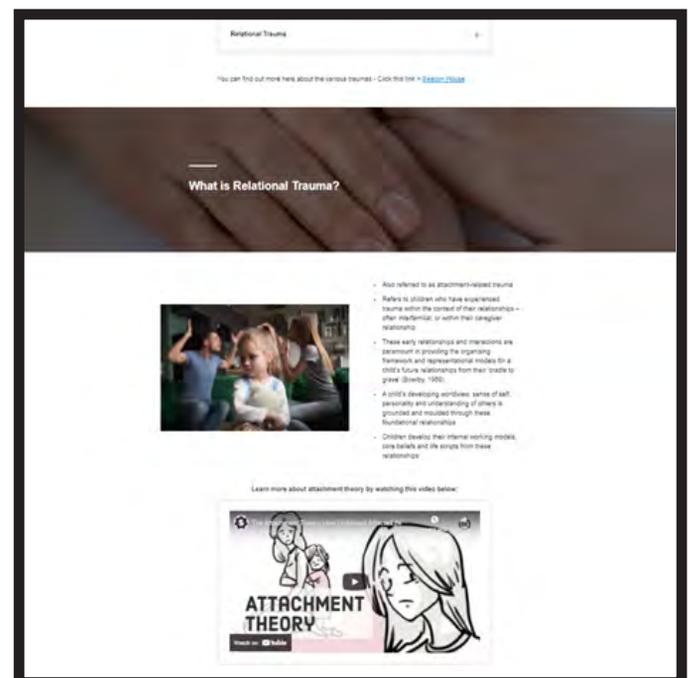
The School of Health and Life Sciences approached the Online Learning team to design and develop content for its Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Trauma in Education and Early Development CPD Programme. Is delivered as a two-day online course to help students gain an introduction to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), adversity and trauma.

There was a requirement to create content that was originally in a linear PowerPoint format, to something that included more interactivity, challenge and activity centred design as key elements of the module design. In addition, the time frame for the development of the course was quite short, so it was important to work closely with the course and module leaders to ensure that the deliverables were met, leaving enough time for testing and appraisal. As part of the initiation process, there was also a requirement to produce a range of interactive formative assessment strategies to enable a vehicle for ongoing feedback and to target any areas that need additional support.

In 2018, the University launched a major strategic initiative to expand its portfolio of online courses. With Future Facing Learning in mind, Teesside University decided it needed a sophisticated online learning platform that would help deliver a modern, accessible, personalised learning experience for its online students. D2L Brightspace was the chosen mobile responsive platform to deliver all of the online learning courses. It was clear from the outset that the School of Health and Life Sciences had a clear vision of raising attainment by improving the quality of their online provision. In order to meet this vision, we worked closely with academic staff to understand the nature of the module, its objectives and how we can best advise on the most suitable pedagogical strategies.



We chose Articulate Storyline to create rich, interactive content, whilst ensuring we maintained responsive and accessible content. Aesthetics and visual design are the key points of any online learning project. This includes the arrangement of the elements on the screen, colours, background, layout consistency, and text fonts. The D2L platform, coupled with Articulate Storyline provided opportunities to take advantage of good design principles, whilst enhancing the learning journey through the platform.



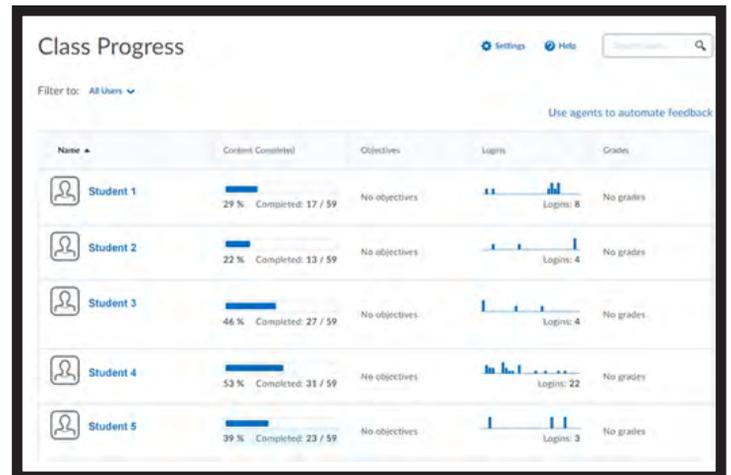
Discussion boards have been included in key topic areas within the module design to help to create a social presence and to promote a sense of community. The D2L platform (TU Online) allows discussions to take place asynchronously, and can be built around a specific lecture, theme, or topic. Additionally, discussions can be held, reviewed, responded to, and kept for future reference by students and academics.

It was important from the outset to ensure that academic staff were provided with robust and targeted onboarding training. This helped to ensure that they could confidently use the tools and features, as well as understand how embed a range of different pedagogical strategies, unique to the online learning environment. Distance learning environments have faced criticism for causing disengagement between students and their courses, so it was important that aligning digital excellence with outstanding learning and teaching was a key focus for the project.

Students who are used to learning in a classroom or meeting room may have trouble adjusting to the online learning experience. To help them thrive in this new environment, we provided student 'onboarding'. During a typical induction session, the students learn about how online learning is different from the traditional classroom experience, gain tips on time management, goal setting planning and prioritising work as well as learn who their key contacts are. Included in the onboarding session is a guided video tour of TU Online, pointing out the different features and functionality, including the online community, how to find materials, assessments and how to communicate with the module leader and fellow students.

So, what are the key take-aways? There is no 'one-size fits all' approach to online learning design, and the process is very much a bespoke solution. We must recognise that learning needs to be personalised, customised, and tailored in order to best meet the needs of learners as individuals. In a traditional campus based learning and teaching setting, there is only one pace. Moving content online has provided a fundamental shift where students can learn anytime, anywhere, and at their own pace. On-demand learning means students can move quickly through concepts they find easier, and spend more time on the ones they find more challenging.

By breaking down the module into manageable chunks and including learning 'checks' such as quizzes and discussion areas, the learning experience is greatly enhanced. Additionally, academic staff have found the analytics tools within the platform extremely useful to measure learner progress and offer additional support where necessary, further improving the learning journey.



As part of the staff onboarding sessions, we encourage academic staff to ensure that course materials are organised and labelled in a consistent way to reduce student confusion. The onboarding sessions have reinforced the need for consistent approach and the feedback we have received from both academic staff and students has been very positive.

Looking to the future, there are many opportunities worth exploring to ensure future readiness. With the growing sophistication of advanced digital technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR) and mixed reality (MR), immersive learning is coming to life. These technological advances have the potential to provide rich contextual customised learning experiences for every individual, for example, helping social care professionals understand the impact of major family issues like neglect and domestic abuse much quicker and in a much deeper way through being immersed in a virtual reality experience.