



**UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON**

**CENTRE FOR ONLINE &  
DISTANCE EDUCATION**

## CODE Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Report 2021/22

The Centre for Online and Distance Education (CODE, formerly CDE) is one of the Centres for Excellence at the University of London. The Centre has recently increased the number of [Fellows](#) to create a more inclusive and diverse membership. There are currently 42 CODE Fellows drawn from across the University of London member institutions, and from other UK and international institutions. The Fellowship brings together an inclusive representation of thought leaders in the sciences, research, academic practice and leadership in online and distance education. The Fellows' roles include teachers, course leaders, senior managers, researchers, educational technologists, learning designers and policy advisors. CODE and its Fellows are ensuring that its commitment to improving equality, diversity and inclusion is evident in its strategic activities, educational innovations and research.

CODE runs large scale conferences, workshops and webinars. Hosted online and hybrid, we reach a global audience, with strong representation from colleagues working in the Global south in both the audience and as presenters. All of our events are made available as Open Educational Resources, with videos hosted on YouTube and materials and reports on the sessions available on our [website](#).

In 2021/22 our programme of events included:

- [Supporting Student Success workshop](#) – our fourth annual workshop, taking place in January 2022, was entitled 'Fulfilling the potential of Online and Distance Education'. The programme included parallel sessions: From students to professionals; Responding to learners' needs
- Our annual [Research in Distance Education](#) conference (RIDE) 2022, took place in June, and we were pleased to include input from colleagues in over 20 countries. Themes explored in the conference included decolonization; accessibility awareness; compassionate teaching; ensuring equality in distance education and assessment; impact of Covid-19; Inclusive Course Design; supporting student wellbeing.
- Our [Experiences in Digital Learning webinar series](#), which is co-hosted with ULIP, included on 4 March 2021, Approaches to Inclusive Online Practices led by Maha Bali, American University in Cairo and Virna Rossi, London Ravensbourne University

CODE supports a scheme for [Student Research Fellows](#) drawn from across the globe. This is an initiative whereby University of London distance learning students are given the opportunity to gain transferable skills through collaborating with CODE Fellows on current projects and programmes funded and led by the Centre. It is unique in providing hands-on research training for students at a distance.

CODE supports capacity building and staff development in a number of ways, including two strategic partnerships:

- with the National Universities Commission in Nigeria, where we work with University leaders to develop large scale high quality distance education to support the pressing need for an expansion of tertiary education;
- and with the Open University of China (OUC), where we train teaching staff and host visiting scholars in London. Our work with OUC is [pioneering](#) approaches to bi-lingual collaborative education.

CODE leads the University of London Postgraduate Certificate Learning and Teaching in Higher Education and inclusive practice is built into the programme through assessments, learning and practice. The cohorts are drawn from across the Globe. Participants are themselves teaching in diverse settings and the programme provides all participants with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of intersectionality in access to success in higher education.

CODE has a number of special interest groups (SIGs), which lead research and practice development. Two particularly relevant to our work in equality, diversity and inclusion are our Inclusion SIG and our Decolonizing online and distance education SIG.

Linda Amrane-Cooper

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