

Our Vision and Aims

Online and distance education can be transformative, breaking down barriers to education and bringing flexibility, accessibility and affordability to learning, for learners worldwide.

The Centre for Online and Distance Education is a team of over 40 leading experts in the practice, research and leadership of online and distance education. We work with providers globally to help realise the enormous and life-changing benefits and opportunities of online and distance education.

We are part of the University of London, the UK's largest provider of international distance and online learning, with around 40,000 students studying in 190 countries, and a pioneer of distance education since 1858.

Our Vision

To be a beacon of research-informed expertise, empowering educators and advancing learner achievement in online and distance education.

Our Aims

- Promote high-quality online and distance education and advocate for its significant and transformational benefits.
- Share and foster knowledge in effective online, distance and transnational education.
- Encourage collaboration and inspire innovation in the delivery of online and distance education.
- Provide global leadership in the research of online and distance education.
- Further University of London's position as the UK's largest provider of international distance and online learning.

What we do

Designing effective learning experiences

• Collaborate internationally to design, develop, deliver, and evaluate online and distance learning programmes tailored to diverse learner needs and contexts.

Building robust capacity

- Assess requirements and contexts to support the development of effective strategies for online and distance education
- Promote professional development through publications, events, training, and international partnerships.

Undertaking cutting-edge research

• Conduct rigorous research to inform best practice, spark innovation and promote quality enhancement in online and distance education.

What we offer

Learning design, learner support, and assessment guidance

- Tailored consultancy on needs analysis, capability assessment and technology evaluation, delivered by experienced professionals.
- Free resources, including webinars, workshops and conferences exploring theory and practice.

Staff development and accreditation

- Bespoke staff development programmes, designed in consultation with your team.
- Short online courses.
- A postgraduate qualification in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, offered through online study.

Networking and knowledge exchange opportunities

- Workshops, webinars, and conferences for educators, technologists, managers and policymakers.
- International scholar placements for specific projects, typically lasting four to six months.
- Funded internships for University of London distance learning students to gain experience on collaborative projects.

Research support

- Funding and awards for University of London and Federation members' research projects, focused on enhancing the quality of online and distance education and the student experience.
- Opportunities for collaborative research through visiting scholar and student fellowship schemes.
- Platforms for disseminating research through conferences, webinars and publications.

Strategic review and analysis

- Organisational readiness assessments for online and distance education.
- Reviews of delivery platforms, including Al applications in education.
- Policy and methods reviews, covering quality assurance, curriculum design, assessment and learner support

To find out more, please email us: code@london.ac.uk or visit our website: london.ac.uk/code