

A distance learning manifesto for University of Dundee

University of Dundee's Distance Learning Forum is comprised of a wide mix of academics, administrative and executive staff and students who are committed to promoting the interests of the distance learning student body. Our pioneering practice benefits wider learning and teaching throughout the institution. We value and support diversity in the DL community, recognising that distance learners have the same wide range of needs as face-to-face learners (as well as some specific to their distance context) and that they are entitled to the same range of support and responsiveness, including opportunities for peer-support and peer-learning, at a distance. We aim to:



ensure DL programme have quality enhancement at their core with materials that are appropriate to the DL context and offer equality of learning experience regardless of country/culture in which the learning takes place

develop self-directed and self-regulated, independent learners, who have a high quality, individualised student experience, which takes account of cultural and other differences amongst learners

foster a strong sense of belonging within this vital community, beyond the university's physical environment, seeking to include all those involved in DL and using technology such as online conferencing tools to enable this

appreciate the many and varied transitions and learning journeys which bring students to distance learning programmes

showcase, share and develop good DL practice via a grassroots approach, offering links to other services as required, improving DL student retention and providing progression opportunities as appropriate

grow a scholarly environment, establishing and maintaining an inter-professional community of practice and enquiry and undertaking research on DL topics: e.g. the learning experience, the welfare of DL students and the technology employed in DL practice

foreground the needs of distance learners throughout the institution

value innovation, including new and alternative approaches to learning, teaching and assessment and supporting staff development in distance learning