

10 Things You Can Do Right Now to Improve Your Students' Experiences of Remote Learning

What students told us about the remote learning experience	What you can do to respond <i>(if you are already doing these things your students have probably been thanking you for it!)</i>
<p>Students need easy access to all their learning materials in a well organised and timely way.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publish a <u>weekly</u> announcement or video that summarises what is coming up, where to find key resources, important dates and links to zoom meetings 2. Be organised – everything students will need should be ready and posted/available as early as possible 3. Spring clean your MyUni site – clear up clutter in the announcement pane, consistently label course elements, make sure everything is where it should be
<p>Students need a quick way to check their understanding of content to replace the opportunity to ask questions of their teachers and fellow students in class</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Run a live Q&A session each week – either embedded into a live lecture delivery or as a separate zoom session 5. Respond as quickly as you can to individual student questions and queries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add online office hours if you can so students don't have to wait for replies to email - Respond to the Discussion Boards regularly 6. Get feedback about assignments back as quickly as possible and provide more worked examples, problem solutions and other guides to enable students to check their understanding as they go
<p>Students miss interaction with other students and their teachers, especially the learning that relies on discussion</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Use Zoom to allow synchronous interactions between students and with you (rather than for transmission style lectures) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if you are putting students into breakout rooms using pre-allocated groups, have the students add their group number to their Zoom name so that you can easily group them
<p>Online classes can be harder to follow, more tiring and more difficult to engage with – even when recorded</p> <p>Students definitely prefer a current lecture to using last year's Echo360 recordings (the order isn't always the same and they can't see what you are pointing to on the recording) or narrated PowerPoints</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Record all Echo360 sessions and make the recordings available the same day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – label the recordings with the relevant topic names to make them easy to find – really pay attention to the quality of the audio recordings and post them separately if possible – especially if the course relies on being able to hear speech clearly (e.g. languages, discipline-specific terminology) – supplement audio/recordings with transcripts, closed captions, lecture notes 9. If you are using a pre-recorded Echo 360 lecture ensure recordings are ordered in a logical way, by using the 'reorder' button in Echo360 (drag and drop to get the correct sequence based on time or topics) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if you're narrating a PowerPoint, describe the location of anything you refer to (e.g. "if you look up in the top left...") 10. Allow 10 minutes at the end of every Zoom session for a break before the next class (like the break between classes on campus) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – if your session goes for longer than 1 hour include a break for everyone's benefit