

UDeL Context Cards

Universal Design for eLearning



**Situations a proactive
teacher can prepare for**

TINEL

Towards Inclusive eLearning

UDeL Context Cards

first edition

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TINEL - Towards Inclusive eLearning
was a project within Erasmus+.

The project investigated how best to support teachers and other staff at Higher Education Institutions in designing and delivering inclusive e-learning using the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) approach, which has been elaborated into a Universal Design for eLearning (UDeL) approach.



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Prepare for diversity

The UDeL Context Cards show a wide variety of situations that a proactive teacher can prepare for. The situations are related to aspects of student diversity and study contexts.

The cards describe situations only – not solutions, as solutions may vary according to what is possible and appropriate in a specific learning situation. The teacher is encouraged to discuss possible solutions with colleagues.

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Remove obstacles for learning

The goal is to find non-stigmatising solutions in which each student feels welcomed and respected.

According to the UDL guidelines this can be done by removing obstacles for learning, so students can:

- Engage in learning in multiple ways
- Receive information in multiple ways
- Show their knowledge in multiple ways

<http://udlguidelines.cast.org>



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Keywords

The keywords allow you to select cards for specific situations.

Student diversity:

- Disability
- Personality & Culture
- Family & Work
- Financial situation
- Language & Digital skills
- Age & Work experience
- Respect & Expectations
- Study environment

Learning activities and material:

- Lecture
- Group work
- Written exam
- Oral presentation
- Absence
- Study material

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Using the UDeL Context Cards

In course preparation:

1. Pull a card and reflect on how you can prepare for this situation in the course in an inclusive way.
2. Are there any unnecessary obstacles in learning outcomes of the course that can be changed?

In staff training workshops:

1. Let workshop participants use existing cards to suggest new cards based on their own experiences.
2. Discuss possible solutions.



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Smartphone

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Smartphone

A student had their laptop stolen and must take your online course using a smartphone. Is that possible?

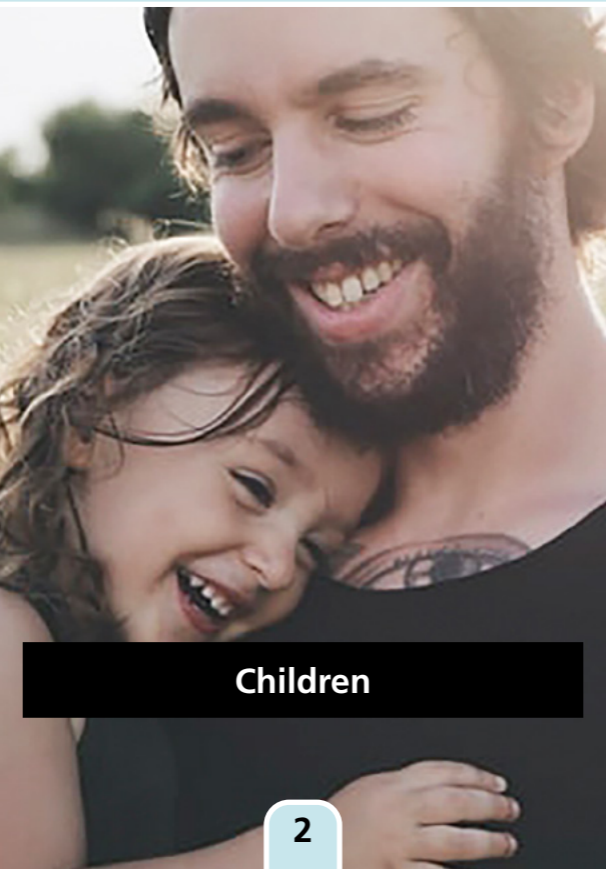
Keywords:
Financial situation
Study material



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Children

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Children

A student needs to pick up a child at the day-care centre and cannot attend any lectures in the late afternoon.

Keywords:
Family & Work
Absence



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Oral exam

Oral exam

A student wants to have an oral exam instead of a written exam.

Keywords:
Disability
Oral presentation



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Harassments

Harassments

One student makes an offensive comment about another student. Are you prepared for what to say?

Keywords:

Personality & Culture
Respect & Expectations



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Death

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Death

A relative of a student has recently died.

Keywords:
Family & Work
Absence



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No camera

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No camera

The whole family is trying to work and study from home. A student does not want to have the camera on during online teaching sessions.

Keywords:
Family & Work
Lecture



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Broken hands

Broken hands

A student in your course breaks both hands. How can the student participate in the remaining course activities and the written exam?

Keywords:
Disability
Written exam



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Back problem

Back problem

A student is not comfortable sitting still for 45 minutes due to a back problem.

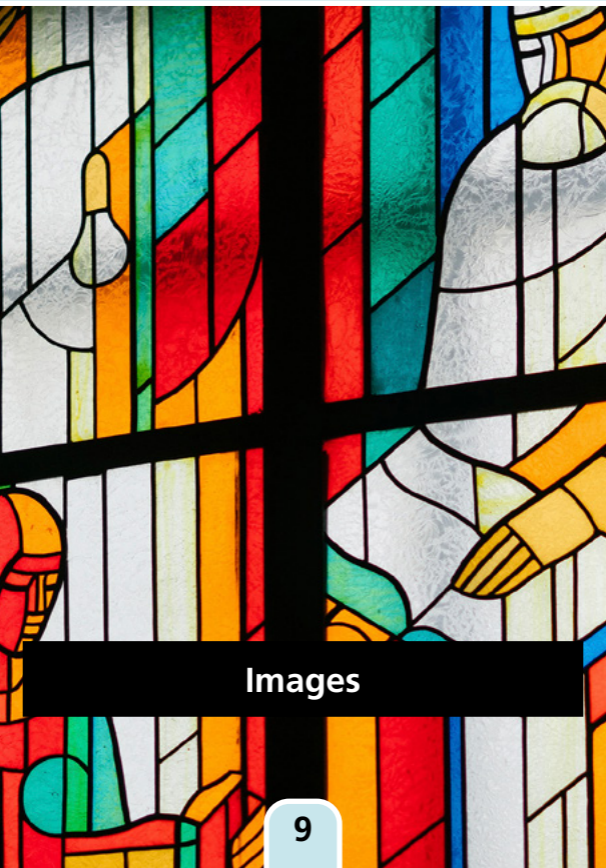
Keywords:
Disability
Lecture



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Images

Images

Pictures in your PowerPoint presentation are not self-explanatory for a student with a visual impairment or a student listening to your recorded lecture while walking.

Keywords:
Disability
Lecture



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Image interpretation

Image interpretation

You have planned a history assessment that requires students to interpret the imagery of an ancient Chinese vase. How can you make this assessment more inclusive, as you realise that you have a student with a visual impairment?

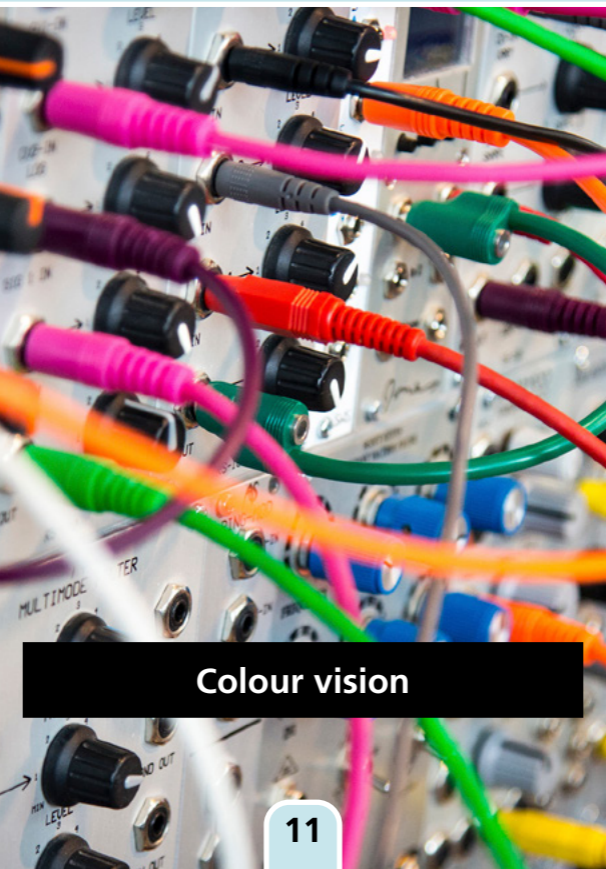
Keywords:
Disability
Written exam



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Colour vision

Colour vision

About 8% of male students and 1% of female students have reduced colour vision. Often red and green are difficult to distinguish from each other. How do your PowerPoint slides work for these students?

Keywords:
Disability
Lecture



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Lip reading

Lip reading

An exchange student who is not a native speaker or a student with a hearing impairment has difficulty understanding what other students are saying in a Zoom meeting when their cameras are off and their mouths are not visible.

Keywords:
Disability
Lecture



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Sound quality

Sound quality

Listening to a lecture for 45 minutes can be really tiring or impossible for students when the sound is not perfect. How well does your microphone work?

Keywords:
Disability
Lecture



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Video presentation

Video presentation

A student with dyslexia would like to create a video instead of a written piece of work.


Keywords:
Disability
Oral presentation



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A collection of white Scrabble tiles with green and black lettering is scattered across a black background. Some tiles are clearly visible, showing letters like 'D', 'A', 'Y', 'O', 'H', and 'Y'. The tiles are arranged in a way that suggests a word being formed or a game in progress.

Spelling mistakes

Spelling mistakes

A PhD student with dyslexia makes lots of spelling mistakes when writing their thesis.

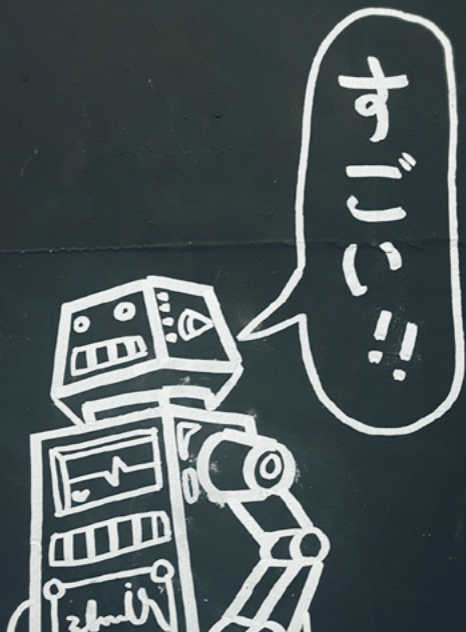
Keywords:
Disability
Written exam



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Language setting

Language setting

A student cannot use a text-to-speech program to listen to one of your documents because the language setting for the document is incorrect. Do you know how to correct it?

Keywords:
Disability
Study material



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Recording lectures

Recording lectures

A student asks if it is OK to record your lecture.

Keywords:
Disability
Lecture



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Attention span

Attention span

Students' attention span varies greatly. How can you take this into account?

Keywords:
Disability
Study environment



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Quiet environment

Quiet environment

Many students need a quiet study environment without noise to be able to concentrate. How can you support them?

Keywords:
Disability
Lecture



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Group size

20

Group size

Some students prefer working alone or in small groups. Are there unnecessary large group sizes specified in the learning outcomes for your course that could be more flexible?

Keywords:
Disability
Group work



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Team support

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Team support

How can students practice working in groups? How do you support them in creating a good team?

Keywords:
Personality & Culture
Group work



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Audience size

Audience size

Oral presentations create anxiety in many students. Are there unnecessary specifications about the size of the audience for student presentations in the learning outcomes for your course?

Keywords:

Disability

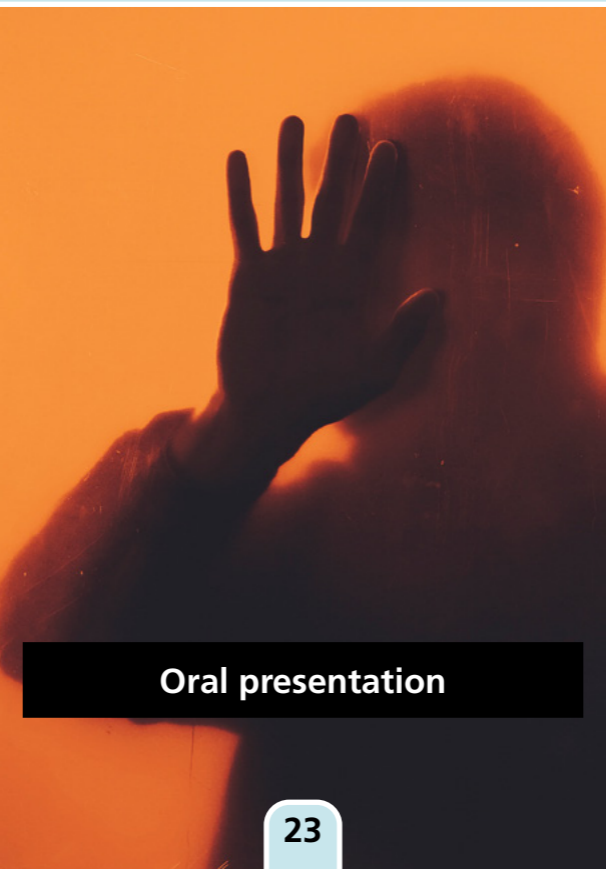
Oral presentation



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Oral presentation

Oral presentation

A student stutters badly when speaking to a group and does not want to contribute to an oral group work presentation. What alternatives or support can you find?

Keywords:
Disability
Oral presentation



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Stressful situations

Stressful situations

A student gets very stressed when oral presentations are approaching and does not show up.

Keywords:

Disability

Oral presentation



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Listening to study material

Listening to study material

A student wants to listen to study material instead of reading it in the traditional way, but does not have the right to access talking books which students with dyslexia have. How can you provide access?

Keywords:
Personality & Culture
Study material



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Lack of motivation

Lack of motivation

A student lacks motivation and quits the class in the middle of a group assignment. What can you do to assist the student and the group?

Keywords:
Personality & Culture
Absence



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Deadlines

Deadlines

In some cultures, and for some teachers, meeting times and deadlines are very important. How are you going to inform your students about your expectations?

Keywords:

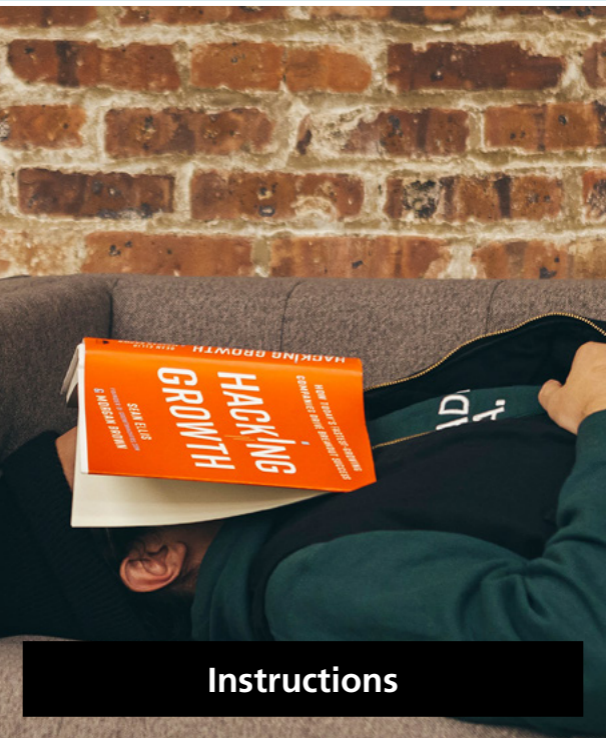
Personality & Culture
Respect & Expectations



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Instructions

Some students don't read instructions carefully. What can you do to ensure that students understand what they are supposed to do?

Keywords:

Personality & Culture
Respect & Expectations



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Parents' expectations

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Parents' expectations

Some students want to know how to get a high grade because their parents have high expectations of them.

Keywords:

Personality & Culture
Respect & Expectations



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Racist comments

Racist comments

A student makes a racist comment
or a student says that a previous
comment made by another student
was racist. Are you prepared for what
to say?

Keywords:

Personality & Culture
Respect & Expectations



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Visual support

Visual support

For some students, visual support is important to be able to learn.


Keywords:
Personality & Culture
Study material



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Feeling respected

Feeling respected

A transgender student does not feel respected in class. How can you address this?

Keywords:

Personality & Culture
Respect & Expectations



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Group participation

Group participation

A shy student does not participate in group work. How can you support them?

Keywords:
Personality & Culture
Group work



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Learning by listening

Learning by listening

A student is used to learning by listening to knowledge presented by the lecturer and does not participate in discussions.

Keywords:
Personality & Culture
Lecture



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Religious holidays

Religious holidays

An international student says they cannot attend classes on their national and religious holidays.

Keywords:
Personality & Culture
Absence



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Pronouns

Pronouns

A student wants a specific pronoun to be used about them. Do you know the different inflectional forms for pronouns?

Keywords:
Personality & Culture
Lecture



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Ambition levels

Ambition levels

A student in a course which involves group work tells the teacher that the other group members do not have the same level of ambition as they do.

Keywords:
Personality & Culture
Group work



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Single parents

Single parents

A student is the only caregiver of a small baby with an irregular sleep pattern.

Keywords:
Family & Work
Absence



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Illness

Illness

A student becomes ill and cannot participate in the scheduled oral presentations session.

Keywords:
Family & Work
Absence



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Aging grandparents

Aging grandparents

A student needs to take care of their aging grandparents, e.g. accompany them to the hospital.

Keywords:
Family & Work
Absence



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Part-time job

Part-time job

A student needs to leave a lecture early to go to their part-time job which they need to support their family.

Keywords:
Family & Work
Absence



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Pandemic home situation

Pandemic home situation

The whole family is at home working and studying at the same time due to the Corona pandemic. This limits the available internet bandwidth and creates a disturbing environment.

Keywords:
Family & Work
Lecture



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Noise at home

Noise at home

A student cannot unmute their microphone during an online group presentation from home, due to noise from a construction company drilling into the walls.

Keywords:

Study environment
Oral presentation



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Parent meeting

Parent meeting

There is a parents meeting at the school a student's children attend at the same time as a seminar.

Keywords:
Family & Work
Absence



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Expensive equipment

Expensive equipment

A student cannot afford to buy a laptop or the software licences required for their courses.

Keywords:
Financial situation
Lecture



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Expensive books

Expensive books

Some students don't want to spend money on books recommended for the course, as sometimes only parts of them are used. There are limited number of these books in the library.

Keywords:
Financial situation
Study material



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Biased examples

Biased examples

Examples used in the lectures are biased towards specific socio-economic groups. To what extent do you think of variations when choosing your examples?

Keywords:
Financial situation
Lecture



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Only iPad or tablet

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Only iPad or tablet

A student has only an iPad/tablet and no laptop/computer. Is it then possible to participate in your learning activities?

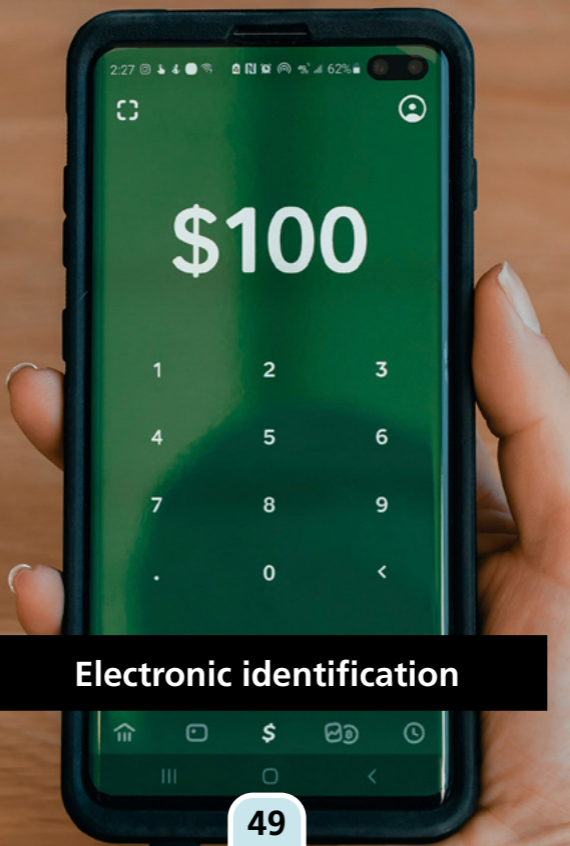
Keywords:
Financial situation
Lecture



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Electronic identification

Electronic identification

A student does not have the means for electronic payment and has difficulty paying for resources online.

Keywords:
Personality & Culture
Study material



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Financial advantage

Financial advantage

Financially stable students have an invisible advantage during the lockdown: Better access to computers, the internet and other resources.

Keywords:
Financial situation
Lecture



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Conflicting values

Conflicting values

In a discussion, students have completely different and conflicting values. One value is even in conflict with national laws and university regulations. How do you make this a great opportunity for inclusive learning?

Keywords:

Personality & Culture
Respect & Expectations



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Sharing computers

Sharing computers

A student with siblings who share a common computer sometimes cannot join your online teaching sessions.

Keywords:
Financial situation
Lecture



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PowerPoint in advance

PowerPoint in advance

A student asks if it is OK to have your PowerPoint presentation one hour before your lecture starts.

Keywords:
Disability
Lecture



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Fast-speaking lecturer

Fast-speaking lecturer

A student cannot follow lectures as the lecturer speaks too fast.

Keywords:

Language & Digital skills
Lecture



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Strong dialect

Strong dialect

A student speaks fluent English but with a strong dialect and is difficult to understand.

Keywords:

Language & Digital skills
Lecture



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Foreign language

Foreign language

It can be difficult for students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of your subject when they need to discuss, present and write in a foreign language.

Keywords:

Language & Digital skills

Group work



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...reading to do: once or twice she had peeped into the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, 'and what is the use of a book,' thought Alice 'without pictures or conversations?'

So she was considering in her own mind (as well as she could, for the hot day made her feel very sleepy and stupid), whether the pleasure of making a daisy-chain would be worth the trouble of getting up and picking the daisies, when suddenly a White Rabbit with pink eyes ran close by her.

There was nothing so very remarkable in that; nor did Alice think it so very much out of the way to hear the Rabbit say to itself, 'Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be late!' (when she thought it over afterwards, it occurred to her that she ought to have wondered at this, but at the time it all seemed quite natural); but when the Rabbit actually took a watch out of its waistcoat-pocket, and looked at it, and then hurried on, Alice started to her feet, for it flashed across her mind that she had never before seen a rabbit with either a waistcoat-pocket, or a watch to take out of it, and burning with curiosity, she ran across the field after it, and fortunately was just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit-hole under the hedge.

Academic writing

Academic writing

Students from different universities and countries have, to varying degrees, received training in academic writing. A student has trouble writing a report. There are problems with structure, grammar, spelling, or citation and references.

Keywords:

Language & Digital skills
Written exam



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Navigating multiple windows

Navigating multiple windows

Some students have difficulty navigating among multiple windows on their digital devices, for example video and chat windows, breakout rooms, and shared screens.

Keywords:

Language & Digital skills
Lecture



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Computer skills

Computer skills

A student seems to have difficulty using computers and always asks for help with things you expect a university student to know.

Keywords:

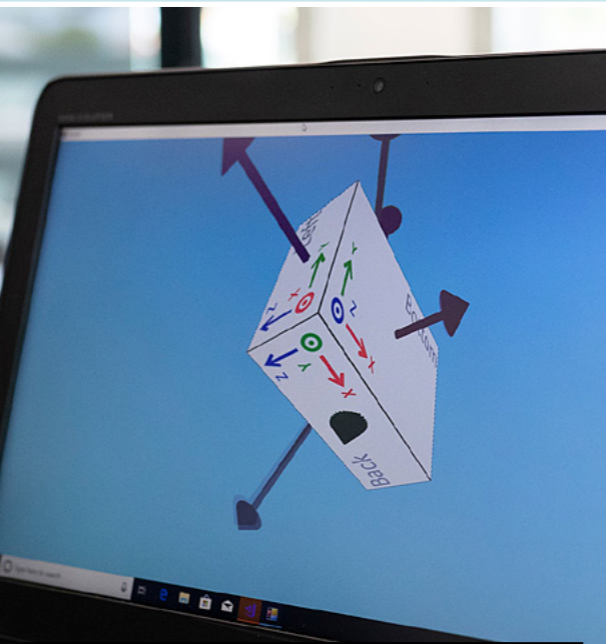
Language & Digital skills
Respect & Expectations



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Unfamiliar software

Unfamiliar software

Some students are not used to the software you use in your course.

Keywords:

Language & Digital skills
Study material



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Document formats

Document formats

How well does translation and text-to-speech software work with the document formats you use?

Keywords:

Language & Digital skills
Study material



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Reluctant to speak English

Reluctant to speak English

An international student does not want to speak English.

Keywords:

Language & Digital skills

Group work



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Exploiting student experience

Exploiting student experience

One student has long work experience and seems to know a lot about the subject of the course – in fact more than you do in some areas.

How can this student's experience be used without the student feeling exploited?

Keywords:

Age & Work experience
Lecture



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Out of date experiences

Out of date experiences

A very experienced student has experiences that are out of date and tries to influence your teaching in ways you do not want.

Keywords:

Age & Work experience
Lecture



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Noisy train or bus

Noisy train or bus

A student who wants to use the travel time to watch a recorded lecture has problems hearing the audio when travelling on a noisy train or bus.

Keywords:
Study environment
Lecture



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Sharing non-relevant information

Sharing non-relevant information

A student is sharing non-relevant information during an online session.

Keywords:

Language & Digital skills
Lecture



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Forgot to mute

Forgot to mute

A student forgot to mute their microphone and noise from the cafe they are sitting in interferes with the lecture.

Keywords:

Language & Digital skills
Lecture



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Keywords:



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