

2023-12-14

'A freedom of students to choose': student and staff perspectives on the future role of online learning in higher education

Turner, R

<https://pearl.plymouth.ac.uk/handle/10026.1/21769>

10.1080/14703297.2023.2292074

Innovations in Education and Training International

Taylor and Francis Group

All content in PEARL is protected by copyright law. Author manuscripts are made available in accordance with publisher policies. Please cite only the published version using the details provided on the item record or document. In the absence of an open licence (e.g. Creative Commons), permissions for further reuse of content should be sought from the publisher or author.

		Student data analysed by demographic characteristics														
(a) Staff vs. Students		(b) Disability		(c) Ethnicity		(d) Deprivation		(e) HE Participation		(f) Residential Status						
Staff (N= 120) Students (N= 505)		Disabled (N= 89) Not Disabled (N= 414)		White (N= 414) Minority Ethnic (N= 83)		IMD 1-4 (N= 98) IMD 5-10 (N= 164)		POLAR 1-2 (N= 116) POLAR 3-5 (N= 152)		Commuter (N= 215) Relocated (N= 290)						
Teaching																
1.1	Teaching and learning activities are delivered both online and face to face and I can choose how to engage	% Agree 51 % Neutral 12 % Disagree 38	62 14 24	% Agree 69 % Neutral 12 % Disagree 19	61 14 25	% Agree 62 % Neutral 13 % Disagree 26	65 17 18	% Agree 53 % Neutral 17 % Disagree 30	70 9 21	% Agree 59 % Neutral 15 % Disagree 26	66 11 23	% Agree 61 % Neutral 16 % Disagree 23	63 12 26			
		$\chi^2= 8.54$	$p<.05$	$V=.12$	$\chi^2= 1.94$	$p=.38$	$\chi^2= 2.80$	$p=.25$	$\chi^2= 8.54$	$p<.05$	$V=.18$	$\chi^2= 1.63$	$p=.44$	$\chi^2= 2.32$	$p=.31$	
1.2	Lectures are recorded to access after the session	% Agree 80 % Neutral 7 % Disagree 6	85 8 8	% Agree 80 % Neutral 12 % Disagree 8	86 7 7	% Agree 86 % Neutral 7 % Disagree 8	82 12 6	% Agree 90 % Neutral 7 % Disagree 3	85 9 5	% Agree 91 % Neutral 5 % Disagree 3	84 6 11	% Agree 87 % Neutral 7 % Disagree 7	84 8 8			
		$\chi^2= 0.56$	$p=.76$	$\chi^2= 3.65$	$p=.16$	$\chi^2= 3.28$	$p=.19$	$\chi^2= 3.72$	$p=.16$	$\chi^2= 4.95$	$p=.08$	$\chi^2= 0.77$	$p=.68$			
1.3	My course requires me to engage with online learning activities (e.g. blogs, quizzes) as part of my learning	% Agree 66 % Neutral 16 % Disagree 18	70 18 12	% Agree 71 % Neutral 16 % Disagree 13	70 19 11	% Agree 70 % Neutral 18 % Disagree 12	71 20 8	% Agree 69 % Neutral 20 % Disagree 10	70 18 12	% Agree 69 % Neutral 22 % Disagree 9	69 18 13	% Agree 74 % Neutral 15 % Disagree 11	67 20 12			
		$\chi^2= 2.94$	$p=.23$	$\chi^2= 0.69$	$p=.71$	$\chi^2= 1.22$	$p=.55$	$\chi^2= 0.46$	$p=.79$	$\chi^2= 0.86$	$p=.65$	$\chi^2= 3.26$	$p=.20$			
1.4	I engage with preparation activities in advance of taught sessions, these are presented online	% Agree 55 % Neutral 29 % Disagree 16	72 21 8	% Agree 71 % Neutral 25 % Disagree 4	72 20 8	% Agree 72 % Neutral 20 % Disagree 8	75 23 2	% Agree 72 % Neutral 22 % Disagree 4	79 14 7	% Agree 75 % Neutral 20 % Disagree 5	78 15 7	% Agree 77 % Neutral 17 % Disagree 6	68 23 9			
		$\chi^2= 14.32$	$p<.01$	$V=.15$	$\chi^2= 2.12$	$p=.35$	$\chi^2= 3.57$	$p=.17$	$\chi^2= 3.31$	$p=.19$	$\chi^2= 1.35$	$p=.51$	$\chi^2= 5.79$	$p=.06$		
1.5	There is a focus on campus-based delivery	% Agree 74 % Neutral 17 % Disagree 9	62 19 19	% Agree 65 % Neutral 17 % Disagree 18	61 19 20	% Agree 61 % Neutral 18 % Disagree 21	66 23 11	% Agree 48 % Neutral 21 % Disagree 31	63 16 21	% Agree 51 % Neutral 21 % Disagree 28	62 15 23	% Agree 46 % Neutral 28 % Disagree 27	74 12 14			
		$\chi^2= 8.39$	$p<.05$	$V=.12$	$\chi^2= 0.46$	$p=.79$	$\chi^2= 5.17$	$p=.08$	$\chi^2= 5.50$	$p=.06$	$\chi^2= 3.31$	$p=.19$	$\chi^2= 42.11$	$p<.001$	$V=.29$	
Personal Tutoring																
1.6	I meet with my personal tutor online	% Agree 83 % Neutral 9 % Disagree 8	63 15 19	% Agree 57 % Neutral 16 % Disagree 27	68 15 17	% Agree 63 % Neutral 16 % Disagree 21	83 10 7	% Agree 68 % Neutral 15 % Disagree 17	69 13 18	% Agree 68 % Neutral 12 % Disagree 20	68 16 16	% Agree 78 % Neutral 11 % Disagree 11	58 18 24			
		$\chi^2= 12.22$	$p<.01$	$V=.14$	$\chi^2= 5.58$	$p=.06$	$\chi^2= 13.02$	$p<.01$	$V=.16$	$\chi^2= 0.13$	$p=1.0$	$\chi^2= 1.26$	$p=.53$	$\chi^2= 24.23$	$p<.001$	$V=.22$
1.7	I can choose where and how I meet with my personal tutor	% Agree 62 % Neutral 19 % Disagree 19	45 31 24	% Agree 46 % Neutral 33 % Disagree 21	45 30 24	% Agree 44 % Neutral 31 % Disagree 25	53 29 18	% Agree 49 % Neutral 29 % Disagree 22	43 29 28	% Agree 42 % Neutral 29 % Disagree 22	43 28 29	% Agree 47 % Neutral 32 % Disagree 21	44 30 26			
		$\chi^2= 10.88$	$p<.01$	$V=.13$	$\chi^2= 0.36$	$p=.84$	$\chi^2= 2.65$	$p=.27$	$\chi^2= 1.18$	$p=.35$	$\chi^2= 2.01$	$p=.37$	$\chi^2= 1.17$	$p=.56$		

Table 1. Methods for accessing teaching and personal tutoring, as reported by staff and students

Advantages		Student data analysed by demographic characteristics																	
		(a) Staff vs. Students		(b) Disability		(c) Ethnicity		(d) Deprivation		(e) HE Participation		(f) Residential Status							
		Staff (n= 120)	Students (n= 505)	Disabled (n= 89)	Not Disabled (n= 414)	White (n= 414)	Minority Ethnic (n= 83)	IMD 1-4 (n= 98)	IMD 5-10 (n= 164)	POLAR 1-2 (n= 116)	POLAR 3-5 (n= 152)	Commuter (n= 215)	Relocated (n= 290)						
2.1	Enables anywhere, anytime learning	% Agree 82 % Neutral 10 % Disagree 8	88 6 6	% Agree 88 % Neutral 8 % Disagree 4	88 6 6	% Agree 92 % Neutral 4 % Disagree 5	88 6 6	% Agree 92 % Neutral 5 % Disagree 3	91 5 3	% Agree 92 % Neutral 4 % Disagree 3	91 6 3	% Agree 90 % Neutral 6 % Disagree 4	87 7 7	$\chi^2= 3.61$ $p=.17$	$\chi^2= 0.81$ $p=.67$	$\chi^2= 0.02$ $p=.99$	$\chi^2= 1.96$ $p=.38$		
2.2	Breaks down geographic barriers to delivery	% Agree 88 % Neutral 8 % Disagree 4	87 8 6	% Agree 84 % Neutral 12 % Disagree 3	88 7 4	% Agree 87 % Neutral 10 % Disagree 4	88 8 4	% Agree 90 % Neutral 8 % Disagree 2	88 6 5	% Agree 89 % Neutral 9 % Disagree 2	89 5 6	% Agree 87 % Neutral 9 % Disagree 4	88 8 4	$\chi^2= 0.70$ $p=.71$	$\chi^2= 2.38$ $p=.30$	$\chi^2= 0.41$ $p=.81$	$\chi^2= 2.13$ $p=.35$	$\chi^2= 5.16$ $p=.08$	$\chi^2= 0.62$ $p=.73$
2.3	Keeps up with the competition	% Agree 41 % Neutral 37 % Disagree 23	47 32 21	% Agree 56 % Neutral 25 % Disagree 19	44 34 21	% Agree 46 % Neutral 39 % Disagree 16	47 31 22	% Agree 47 % Neutral 35 % Disagree 18	47 30 23	% Agree 45 % Neutral 34 % Disagree 21	49 30 22	% Agree 50 % Neutral 33 % Disagree 17	44 32 24	$\chi^2= 1.31$ $p=.52$	$\chi^2= 4.39$ $p=.11$	$\chi^2= 2.59$ $p=.28$	$\chi^2= 1.11$ $p=.57$	$\chi^2= 0.73$ $p=.69$	$\chi^2= 4.35$ $p=.11$
2.4	Extends my institution's reach into new markets	% Agree 56 % Neutral 29 % Disagree 15	64 24 11	% Agree 64 % Neutral 26 % Disagree 10	65 23 12	% Agree 69 % Neutral 28 % Disagree 4	64 23 13	% Agree 65 % Neutral 26 % Disagree 9	65 23 12	% Agree 60 % Neutral 28 % Disagree 11	69 20 11	% Agree 67 % Neutral 23 % Disagree 10	62 25 13	$\chi^2= 3.71$ $p=.22$	$\chi^2= 0.37$ $p=.83$	$\chi^2= 6.46$ $p<.05$ $V=.11$	$\chi^2= 6.46$ $p=.72$	$\chi^2= 2.89$ $p=.24$	$\chi^2= 1.49$ $p=.48$
2.5	Levels the playing field for disadvantaged students	% Agree 37 % Neutral 29 % Disagree 34	67 18 16	% Agree 70 % Neutral 16 % Disagree 15	66 18 16	% Agree 71 % Neutral 19 % Disagree 10	66 17 17	% Agree 70 % Neutral 17 % Disagree 12	63 19 18	% Agree 66 % Neutral 16 % Disagree 17	65 20 15	% Agree 70 % Neutral 16 % Disagree 13	64 19 17	$\chi^2= 38.22$ $p<.001$ $V=.25$	$\chi^2= 0.42$ $p=.81$	$\chi^2= 2.78$ $p=.25$	$\chi^2= 1.70$ $p=.43$	$\chi^2= 0.60$ $p=.74$	$\chi^2= 2.18$ $p=.34$
2.6	Improves student skill development	% Agree 26 % Neutral 26 % Disagree 48	51 22 27	% Agree 57 % Neutral 19 % Disagree 24	50 22 28	% Agree 51 % Neutral 33 % Disagree 17	51 20 29	% Agree 57 % Neutral 18 % Disagree 24	50 18 32	% Agree 59 % Neutral 16 % Disagree 26	49 20 31	% Agree 57 % Neutral 20 % Disagree 22	47 23 31	$\chi^2= 28.06$ $p<.001$ $V=.21$	$\chi^2= 1.67$ $p=.43$	$\chi^2= 9.36$ $p<.01$ $V=.14$	$\chi^2= 1.70$ $p=.43$	$\chi^2= 2.67$ $p=.26$	$\chi^2= 6.23$ $p<.05$ $V=.11$
2.7	Will lead to improved learning outcomes	% Agree 16 % Neutral 38 % Disagree 47	48 26 27	% Agree 54 % Neutral 21 % Disagree 25	46 27 27	% Agree 52 % Neutral 31 % Disagree 17	46 25 29	% Agree 49 % Neutral 19 % Disagree 32	46 24 30	% Agree 47 % Neutral 21 % Disagree 33	47 24 29	% Agree 53 % Neutral 25 % Disagree 22	43 26 31	$\chi^2= 40.77$ $p<.001$ $V=.26$	$\chi^2= 1.90$ $p=.39$	$\chi^2= 5.40$ $p=.07$	$\chi^2= 0.70$ $p=.71$	$\chi^2= 0.70$ $p=.71$	$\chi^2= 6.49$ $p<.05$
2.8	Provides a better learning experience	% Agree 21 % Neutral 24 % Disagree 55	48 19 32	% Agree 57 % Neutral 11 % Disagree 31	46 21 32	% Agree 57 % Neutral 20 % Disagree 23	46 19 35	% Agree 50 % Neutral 15 % Disagree 35	42 21 37	% Agree 46 % Neutral 18 % Disagree 36	44 20 36	% Agree 53 % Neutral 19 % Disagree 27	44 20 36	$\chi^2= 30.78$ $p<.001$ $V=.23$	$\chi^2= 5.60$ $p=.06$	$\chi^2= 4.46$ $p=.11$	$\chi^2= 2.09$ $p=.35$	$\chi^2= 0.22$ $p=.89$	$\chi^2= 4.81$ $p=.09$
2.9	Reduces cost of teaching	% Agree 23 % Neutral 28 % Disagree 49	53 29 18	% Agree 49 % Neutral 28 % Disagree 22	54 29 16	% Agree 64 % Neutral 24 % Disagree 12	51 30 19	% Agree 54 % Neutral 27 % Disagree 18	53 28 19	% Agree 47 % Neutral 29 % Disagree 23	59 26 15	% Agree 56 % Neutral 27 % Disagree 17	51 30 19	$\chi^2= 58.31$ $p<.001$ $V=.36$	$\chi^2= 0.42$ $p=.42$	$\chi^2= 4.89$ $p=.09$	$\chi^2= 0.03$ $p=.99$	$\chi^2= 4.07$ $p=.13$	$\chi^2= 1.37$ $p=.51$

Table 2. Proportion (%) of staff and students reporting advantages of online learning.

		Student data analysed by demographic characteristics													
		(a) Staff vs. Students		(b) Disability				(c) Ethnicity		(d) Deprivation		(e) HE Participation		(f) Residential Status	
		Staff (n= 120)	Students (n= 505)	Disabled (n= 89)	Not Disabled (n= 414)	White (n= 414)	Minority Ethnic (n= 83)	IMD 1-4 (n= 98)	IMD 5-10 (n= 164)	POLAR 1-2 (n= 116)	POLAR 3-5 (n= 152)	Commuter (n= 215)	Relocated (n= 290)		
3.1	Doesn't offer the same social experience that many students want	% Agree 97 % Neutral 2 % Disagree 2	79 9 12	% Agree 70 % Neutral 19 % Disagree 11	81 7 12	% Agree 82 % Neutral 8 % Disagree 10	79 9 12	% Agree 70 % Neutral 11 % Disagree 18	80 7 13	% Agree 72 % Neutral 15 % Disagree 14	80 4 16	% Agree 74 % Neutral 12 % Disagree 14	82 7 10		
		$\chi^2= 21.18$	$p<.001$	$V=.18$	$\chi^2= 12.19$	$p<.01$	$V=.16$	$\chi^2= 0.53$	$p=.77$	$\chi^2= 3.58$	$p=.17$	$\chi^2= 9.62$	$p<.01$	$\chi^2= 5.60$	$p=.06$
3.2	It is more difficult to deliver	% Agree 59 % Neutral 26 % Disagree 15	47 20 34	% Agree 46 % Neutral 13 % Disagree 40	47 21 32	% Agree 45 % Neutral 25 % Disagree 30	47 19 34	% Agree 44 % Neutral 16 % Disagree 40	48 19 34	% Agree 40 % Neutral 22 % Disagree 39	51 17 32	% Agree 39 % Neutral 23 % Disagree 38	53 17 30		
		$\chi^2= 16.09$	$p<.001$	$V=.16$	$\chi^2= 3.63$	$p=.16$	$\chi^2= 1.86$	$p=.39$	$\chi^2= 1.08$	$p=.58$	$\chi^2= 3.23$	$p=.20$	$\chi^2= 10.07$	$p<.01$	$V=.14$
3.3	The student experience is not as good	% Agree 73 % Neutral 20 % Disagree 7	60 16 23	% Agree 56 % Neutral 15 % Disagree 29	61 17 22	% Agree 63 % Neutral 20 % Disagree 17	60 16 24	% Agree 51 % Neutral 19 % Disagree 30	65 12 23	% Agree 52 % Neutral 20 % Disagree 28	66 10 24	% Agree 53 % Neutral 17 % Disagree 30	66 16 18		
		$\chi^2= 16.80$	$p<.001$	$V=.16$	$\chi^2= 2.01$	$p=.37$	$\chi^2= 2.74$	$p=.25$	$\chi^2= 5.64$	$p=.06$	$\chi^2= 7.21$	$p<.05$	$\chi^2= 10.98$	$p<.01$	$V=.15$
3.4	Makes my institution less attractive to prospective students	% Agree 31 % Neutral 43 % Disagree 26	32 31 37	% Agree 22 % Neutral 33 % Disagree 45	34 31 35	% Agree 34 % Neutral 36 % Disagree 30	32 30 38	% Agree 33 % Neutral 24 % Disagree 43	30 3 37	% Agree 28 % Neutral 28 % Disagree 45	34 33 34	% Agree 27 % Neutral 33 % Disagree 40	36 30 34		
		$\chi^2= 7.34$	$p<.05$	$V=.11$	$\chi^2= 5.06$	$p=.08$	$\chi^2= 2.10$	$p=.35$	$\chi^2= 2.178$	$p=.34$	$\chi^2= 3.54$	$p=.17$	$\chi^2= 4.26$	$p=.12$	

Table 3. Proportion (%) of staff and students reporting disadvantages of online learning.