

Role play: implications for institutions

Aim

This activity is designed to help participants consider institutional implications of findings about learners' experiences of e-learning.

Instructions to participants

Part 1

Several working groups have been convened to help your institution decide how it should respond to findings about learners' experiences of e-learning.

Within your working group you will have a range of different institutional roles and expertise. Please draw on your own real-life knowledge to support discussion.

Each group must nominate a committee chair to lead discussion and to report back. Each group is asked to consider one specific issue or challenge the institution is facing. Each group will also receive evidence from a number of learners

Part 2

Begin your discussion with some general thoughts about how your *institution* might approach this challenge. Focus on ideas that can be implemented at the level of institutional strategy or central services.

Sketch out three or four ideas for responding more effectively to learners' needs and requirements

Part 3

Those who have elected to be specific learners, get into role. Other group members, interview the learners about your ideas and listen to their responses.

Learners, be prepared to respond in role. Try to be constructive but also honest and critical.

Part 4

Return to your 'institutional' roles and refine your suggestions in light of the evidence from the learners

Reporting back

Ask each chair to report back on their challenges and the solutions they suggest. Ask chairs and group members to offer any reflections on whether the learners' perspectives changed how they approached the challenge.



Group 1

Theme: Access to learning

Institutional issue: How can we give learners equitable access to resources, while supporting their use of personal technologies? What are our responsibilities?

Group 2

Theme: Skills for learning

Institutional issue: How can we support students to develop the skills they need for effective learning in the digital age? How can students support each other?

Group 3

Theme: Flexibility and personalisation

Institutional issue: How can we offer learners meaningful choices about how they engage with learning? What role can technology play?

Group 4

Theme: Different attitudes to technology

Institutional question: What choices should we offer learners about how they study, and how they are assessed? What role can technology play?

Group 5

Theme: Change and transition

Institutional question: How can we better support learners at key transition points such as induction, final assessment, and progression into work or further study?

Group 6

Theme: Making sense of experience

Institutional issue: How can we help learners integrate their formal and informal, face-to-face and online, on- and off-campus experiences of learning?

