CHANGE OF DELIVERY MODE TO ONLINE OR BLENDED DELIVERY, APPROVAL PROCESS

Introduction and Context

The Education Committee approved the Principles for Quality Assurance of DCU E-learning and Blended Provision at its meeting of 8 December 2021.

At the Education Committee meeting of 9 March 2022, the future impact of the switch from traditional face-to-face delivery to online and blended learning during the pandemic period was discussed. The Education Committee agreed that we will adopt a phased approach to longer term changes which this experience informs, and first consider proposed changes by Faculties to flexible delivery to part-time postgraduate taught learners. The University will take time for further consideration of the mode of delivery of full-time undergraduate and full-time postgraduate programmes. In the context of DCU being a campus-based institution but with a commitment to delivery to remote learners and technology enhanced education, this is the first step towards developing a new basis for our approach. The University will look at the broader picture in the context of an evolving strategy and in the context of the experience of part-time postgraduate programmes which move to online or blended delivery.

The roll-out of DCU Futures is laying the groundwork for a future model for technology enhanced somewhat blended undergraduate delivery and a review of the pilot will be a key factor in decisions to be made regarding any consideration of future changes to undergraduate delivery.

DCU Definitions of Online and Blended Delivery

In the context of a part-time postgraduate programme it is important that there is a common understanding of the definitions of online and blended delivery. The following are the agreed definitions in the DCU Context

**Online Delivery**

Consistent with ENQA (2018) definitions, at DCU the term ‘online delivery’ refers to a study mode where students can predominately complete a programme without the need for any on-campus classes. The programme is usually delivered through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction with all learning conducted at a distance.

**Blended Delivery**

In contrast, the term ‘blended delivery’ at DCU refers to programmes intentionally designed to combine both online and face-to-face teaching in any combination. While students have greater flexibility through some provision of learning online, instruction also takes place on campus.
Approval of a change to delivery mode from part-time traditional delivery for existing programmes

Education Committee will consider a change in mode of delivery to online or highly blended which meet the following criteria:

- The programme must be part-time taught postgraduate;
- Students will be predominately off campus (more than half of the learner contact will be online).

Please note the following:

- Programme teams should include a clear rationale for the change of delivery mode to online or blended delivery;
- The teaching and learning and assessment practices must adhere to quality standards as laid out in the Principles for Quality Assurance of DCU E-learning and Blended Provision

Please complete the updated revised academic offering form which now has an additional section on online or blended delivery.