

FOCUS ON: TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING



Focus On: Technology Enhanced Learning

Key messages

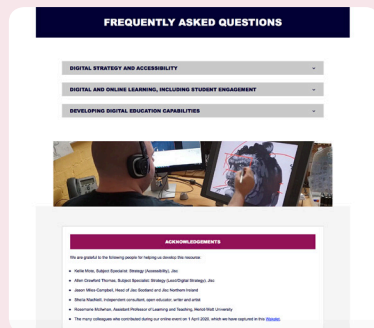
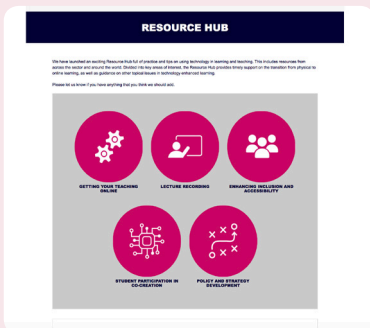
- Technology can enhance learning, but pedagogy must lead.
- When it comes to making learning resources accessible, simplicity is key.
- Mixing synchronous and asynchronous delivery, and online and offline materials, offers flexibility and promotes accessibility.
- We need to work with our learners to remove barriers to learning – they are the experts on their own experience. Barriers might relate to disability, but also unequal access to workspace or technology.
- It can be helpful to think in terms of ‘supporting students to engage with their learning online’, rather than ‘teaching online’.
- Technology has the ability to support the development of learning communities and enhance opportunities for student engagement, particularly in the context of remote learning.



What did we do?

We developed a **Technology Enhanced Learning Resource Hub**. This includes links to practical tools, training resources, reference materials, blogs, podcasts, videos and research. These are grouped by topic, to help you find what you need as easily as possible.

- Getting your teaching online (includes a section on assessment)
- Lecture recording
- Enhancing inclusion and accessibility
- Student participation in co-creation
- Policy and strategy development.



We also produced a **Frequently Asked Questions** resource, which includes examples of good practice, practical tips and useful links.

You can find the Resource Hub and FAQs on the [Focus On: Technology Enhanced Learning](#) webpage.

In April 2020, we held a one-day online event. Over 140 delegates joined us for three live Q&A sessions, and there was also engaging discussion on Twitter.

Our first session offered an opportunity to ask two of Jisc's subject specialists – Kellie Mote and Allen Crawford – about **digital strategy and accessibility**. In our second session, independent consultant and open educator, Sheila MacNeill, and Jason Miles-Campbell, Head of Jisc Scotland and Jisc Northern Ireland, answered questions about various dimensions of digital and online learning, including the student experience, digital equality, and online privacy. Finally, Rosemarie McIlwhan, Assistant Professor of Learning and Teaching at Heriot-Watt University, shared the institution's approach to its global mission, and how it uses technology to help students feel part of a global institution.

Student perspectives are essential to helping us understand how technology can enhance learning. We wanted to find out what students value about the use of technology, so we explored teaching awards, looking specifically at those awarded for the use of technology. We learned that apps, interactive websites, and other tools can be used to support student engagement in ways that students find accessible and effective.

We also invited colleagues from across the sector to produce short video diaries, sharing their preparations for the 2020-21 academic session.



Visit our website to access the Technology Enhanced Learning Resource Hub, FAQs, video diaries and more.

www.qaa.ac.uk/scotland/focus-on

Why Technology Enhanced Learning?

An extremely timely topic, Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) emerged as a key area of activity during the ELIR 3 cycle and continues to receive attention in ELIR 4.

You can find our [thematic report](#) on the use of technology in learning and teaching on the QAA Scotland website. Search for Enhancement-led Institutional Review.

We consulted higher education institutions and students' associations in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Staff and students indicated that their priorities for TEL included **upskilling and policy development**. These related to particular technologies (such as lecture recording and virtual learning environments) and ways of using technology (such as enhancing access, inclusion and co-creation).

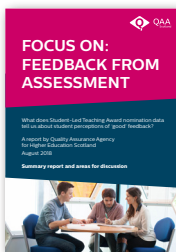
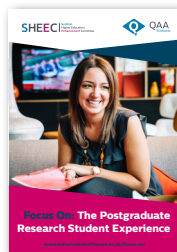
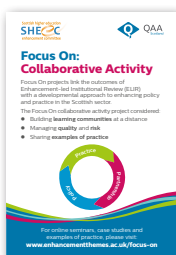
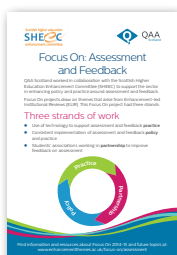
The COVID-19 crisis reinforced the importance of this project and sharpened our focus on supporting staff to get their teaching online and **engage students in online learning**.



Previous Focus On projects

Have you seen our other resources?

- Assessment and Feedback (2014-15)
- Collaborative Activity (2015-16)
- Institution-led Review (2016-17)
- Postgraduate Research Student Experience (2016-17)
- Feedback from Assessment (2017-18)
- Graduate Skills (2018-19)



Share your success!

We would love to hear how you are using the resources from Focus On: Technology Enhanced Learning, or any of our previous projects.

If you would like to become involved in future Focus On projects, we would love to hear from you! You can find our contact information overleaf.

QAA Scotland Focus On

QAA Scotland Focus On projects help higher education institutions and students' associations work on topics emerging from Enhancement-led Institutional Review (ELIR).

Focus On projects last one academic year and link these outcomes with developmental activities, resources and events in which the whole sector can get involved. We try to focus on the most practical things we can do, that are timely and helpful, and can help colleagues make a difference in a short space of time.



QAA Scotland, 18 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6NU



01415 723420



ARCAadmin@qaa.ac.uk



@QAAScotland



www.qaa.ac.uk/scotland/focus-on