



Facts and Fiction about E-Learning

E-Academy

▶ E-learning has nothing to do with regular learning

E-learning and regular learning are not two different models. Rather, online training should be seen as part of traditional learning and teaching. It is like adding a new set of tools to the existing instructional toolbox, helping to impart knowledge more smoothly than by using purely traditional means.

▶ E-learning is just reading text on the screen

Indeed, some e-learning courses are no more than simple page-turners. Ideally, e-learning course designers aim at the learner's interactivity with the course material, instructor and fellow learners. Then e-learning will be very enriching, captivating, and instructionally powerful.

▶ E-learning is no more than distance learning

E-learning can be much more than mere distance learning. By blending it with face-to-face studying, it turns out to be a productive supplement to classroom learning. Making material available online, for instance, can help students to preview it before class and review it afterwards. An interactive voting system or multimedia presentations can be used in the classroom to enrich the delivery of course content.

▶ E-learning is just for teaching information technology

E-learning is used to support a wide range of topics and competencies, from highly technical content to business and personal skills.

▶ E-learning dispenses with the teacher and leaves the students to fend for themselves

It is true that e-learning presents a new role model of teachers and students. It is not true that e-learning completely drops the idea of teaching and learning. Instead of instructor-centred teaching, e-learning favours students who can work autonomously and facilitators who see themselves as students' mentors rather than as traditional authorities. This approach calls for a high degree of social interaction and empathy from both sides.

▶ E-learning is just about saving money

Although e-learning requires some significant initial investment, organizations can generate huge cost savings due to reduced travel, instructor time savings and lower facilities expenses. But there are many other reasons for implementing e-learning, including reaching more and diverse learners, achieving faster knowledge distribution, global consistency of instruction, and managing learning more systematically.

▶ E-learning is a 'one-size-fits-all' approach

E-learning is not just one solution or approach; it comprises a range of tools that can be used very individually. The choice of the technology should be in compliance with the specific needs of each course, the content of the module, the students, and the underlying teaching philosophy.

▶ E-learning is time-consuming / E-learning is time-saving

Some people say that e-learning requires too much time to be practical at all. Others argue that e-learning will drastically reduce staff time. The truth lies somewhere in between. E-learning does require time to be implemented, especially in the early stages of planning and development. After the initial investment, the time needed is significantly less.

▶ E-learning makes students lazy and unsocial

Putting lecture notes online does not discourage students from coming to class, but rather frees them to listen to lectures more attentively. Students who are reluctant to speak up in class are often more comfortable communicating electronically because they will not be 'seen'. Traditional problems such as gender issues are minimised, and students can take their time to prepare the response. The diverse cultural backgrounds of many e-learning groups foster a high degree of intercultural sensitivity and social interaction.

▶ For further information please visit:

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