



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

Decision Grid for Online and Blended Learning

The decision grid is meant to guide programme and course leaders in planning for a blended or fully online course.

Values

- How does offering this course as a blended or fully online course support the values of access, impact, relevance and quality?

Students

- Who are the students in this course? (Gender; age; location; digital literacy)
- Where will they access the course from?
- What is their connectivity likely to be at home?
- What hardware (e.g., laptops, smartphone) are they likely to have access to?
- Do students have any special learning needs that might inhibit their learning in an online environment?

Faculty

- Who are the faculty in this course? (characteristics as they affect the teaching and learning strategies)
- Have they taught or studied in blended or online learning environment? Have they attended VLE or Zoom workshops?
- What is their connectivity likely to be off-campus?
- What hardware (e.g., laptops, smartphone) are they likely to have access to?
- If more than one faculty are teaching the course, are they from the same department or will they be working across campuses?

Course

- What is the make-up of this course? Does it have a clinical (practicum) element to it? What is the duration of the course? How long is each F2F session? When are these classes held? Which parts of the course will need to be modified significantly, e.g. field visit?
- Are there any accreditation or curriculum standards that cannot be changed?
- What are the teaching/learning strategies used in the course? Will the course be taught asynchronously or synchronously?
- Are there any time, logistical or structural considerations that will make online teaching challenging? How many students are enrolled?
- Is there a VLE assistant or a faculty champion for the programme who can help with the course design?
- Are the materials used in this course already present in digital formats?
- What are the expectations of assignments and assessment? Are there any assessment and/or evaluation practices that cannot be changed?

Cost

- Will the materials require copyright clearance for which budget will be required?
- What new digital content will be developed (e.g. videos)?
- Can the materials for this course be used by other faculty members or courses?
- What are the infrastructure requirements attached to this course (use of learning labs, use of computer labs, purchase and maintenance of devices, internet dongles, etc.)?

To discuss your plan and for support related to online course design and development, contact: bdlnet@aku.edu