

Virtual Learning Environments (VLE)

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Get support

Your department should offer support with setting up your VLE. Find out who your support people are and ask them for advice or help with fixing any issues.

Support good study habits with your VLE design

Complaining about student's lack of good study habits (like preparing for a lecture or attempting tutorial questions before the tutorial) is very easy — and often justified. But remember that we can help our students to adopt these skills.

Present your content material clearly and highlight what students need to do and when.

Using documents as part of your VLE

Most of us upload documents (e.g. pptx or pdf files) with lecture notes/slides and tutorial questions. Students will often download and perhaps annotate these files. This can be great, but also means that ideally these documents (once uploaded) do not change. If they do you ought to label this clearly.

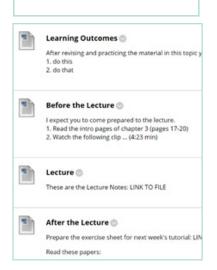
Information which is likely to change or update (like assessment info or organisational informational should be communicated directly through the VLE and not through a document.

Expectations

What do you expect from your students? What can they expect from you? Make a clear statement to clarify this. If you make it clear to students what information will be communicated through the VLE- and stick to this- you can save your inbox and time in your office hours.

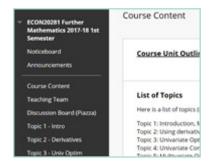
Use and adapt your course menu

Find out how to adapt your course navigation bar. You can create new sections (e.g. for particular weeks or topics) from here. This helps to structure the content.



Ask your colleagues

Talk to experienced colleagues to find out what works for them. But make sure to ask them how they know what works. They may not have water-tight causal evidence but hopefully some anecdotal evidence.



Teaching staff session

Introduce all teaching staff in a dedicated section. Do include pictures if colleagues are happy with this, as well as links to your staff's research, office hour info and contact details.

Assessment info session

Many students'
queries centre around
assessment. You need
to provide coherent and
clear communication on
this. Consider creating an
Assessment Info section
in your VLE through which
you communicate all
relevant info. All further
queries can then be
referred to this.

More info at: www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk

