Online Course

What is an online course

Online courses are asynchronous courses conducted over the internet which are delivered through a computer or any other digital device. They are generally self-paced and can be followed at your own place and time.

An online course consists of a series of modules which can be followed sequentially or randomly, allowing greater flexibility in completing coursework. This also allows for differentiation in the trainees learning experiences.

The learning materials consist of text, video, images and animations. Most online courses also have discussion forums and community groups, enabling communication between trainees and trainers.

Online courses are ideal for information transfer and practising cognitive skills.

Online courses are not suited for live interaction or for training motor skills.

Why using online courses as learning technology

- Learning content is available at any time and any place
- They allow the transfer of knowledge and practising cognitive skills
- They reach large groups of learners
- Learning progress is easy to monitor
  They are easy to adapt to changing learning contents
- They allow for differentiation in learning experiences

Advantages

- Flexibility in completing the modules
- Suitable for transfer of knowledge and practice of cognitive skills
- Rich learning materials
- Accessible on any time and any place
- Easy to access from any digital device
- Reach large audience of learners

Disadvantages

- Minimum of self-directed learning skills and digital skills are needed
- Not suited for training motoric skills
- Participants might feel isolated
- Difficult to keep learners motivated over long periods of time

Want to learn more about the benefits of online courses? Fill in the decision tool and find out which tools will serve your goals.