

WELCOME TO THE NEW DUBAI CAMPUS AT KNOWLEDGE PARK

A very warm welcome to Heriot-Watt University's new Dubai campus. The new location offers state-of-the-art learning spaces that will allow you to be creative in your teaching and enable students to flourish as they progress through their studies. We hope that you and your students will find the setting and the facilities inspiring.

The new campus includes a range of formal and informal learning spaces. Each of these offers a myriad of possibilities for active learning and inspiring teaching. Take the opportunity to explore the spaces and to think creatively about how you and your students might use them. The new classrooms are setup to encourage more interaction and engagement between students. This might be in the form of a debate, working together to solve problems or other active engagement in live classes. The balance of activities will vary by what best suits the topics you are teaching in any session. As you get to know the campus, you'll be able to see which spaces are best suited to different teaching activities and approaches.



Our formal learning spaces include:

- Standard Classrooms (Some of which can be combined to create larger classrooms).
- Collaborative Lecture Theatre.
- Digital Learning Spaces (Pods).
- Seminar rooms.
- Group study rooms.
- Labs.
- Design studios.

The informal learning spaces include study pods in the library, the town hall, the cafeteria, and a host of other spaces.

This pack provides some suggestions for how to use the spaces to engage students in active learning. According to Chickering and Gamson (1987, p3) active learning techniques underpin good undergraduate education: “Learning is not a spectator sport. Students do not learn much just sitting in classes listening to teachers, memorizing pre-packaged assignments, and spitting out answers. They must talk about what they are learning, write reflectively about it, relate it to past experiences, and apply it to their daily lives. They must make what they learn part of themselves”.

The pack also provides further information and guidance on how to make the most of the spaces to support student learning and engagement. Over the past year, you have been encouraging active learning online. We now have the opportunity to explore more active approaches to learning in our new campus, to encourage students to move from passive consumers of lectures to creative participants in their own learning. This will enable them to find themselves through various self-learning and peer-learning approaches and to lead the way in their learning journey.

The pack includes:

- Dubai new campus top tips for staff.
- Embedding active learning in your teaching practice guide.
- A new campus: A new learning experience (student guide).
- Learning spaces guides for each of the formal learning spaces.
- Informal learning spaces (student guide).
- Teaching online and on-campus simultaneously guide.
- Top tips for staff on teaching online and on-campus simultaneously.

Once you have had time to get to know and use the learning spaces, do share your practice with others within your discipline area and beyond. As a community we can inspire each other to make best use of the opportunities our new campus affords us and can lead the way in active learning across the University.



“Learning is not a spectator sport. Students do not learn much just sitting in classes listening to teachers, memorizing pre-packaged assignments, and spitting out answers. They must talk about what they are learning, write reflectively about it, relate it to past experiences, and apply it to their daily lives. They must make what they learn part of themselves”

Chickering and Gamson, 1987: 3



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License