

DUBAI NEW CAMPUS TOP TIPS FOR STAFF

The new campus opens exciting possibilities for learning and teaching in Dubai. The new learning spaces will make it easier to create active sessions, supporting students to become engaged participants in their own learning. Making the most of the opportunities the new spaces offer will take some thought, creativity and sharing of practice. These top tips will help inspire your session planning.

1. Get to know the new spaces.

There are a range of formal and informal learning spaces. Take time to look around and explore the spaces. Get to know the different layouts, flexibilities, technologies, and accessibility features. Whilst in each space, think about how you might make best use of it for teaching.

2. Experiment with different layouts.

The flexible learning spaces enable you to move furniture around to suit the activities you have designed for your session. Experiment with what works best for you and your students for each class. It is OK to change things around if you find something does not work.

3. Active learning is about engaging students.

It engages students in applying, using or consolidating their understanding of ideas, not simply passively receiving information. This can be achieved in a range of ways. Select the activities and approach that works best for your session.

4. All sessions can incorporate activities to support active learning.

This can be moments for individual activity, for example to reflect and apply concepts to groupwork, or more complex sessions incorporating individual and group activities.

5. Set clear expectations for students.

Let them know how you will be using the learning space and what you will expect of them. Give clear guidance on how they should prepare and participate.

6. Plan and practice.

The new campus offers many opportunities which, like any new thing, might seem daunting. Planning your sessions and then practicing using the different spaces will give you confidence and help you make the most of the new learning spaces. Keep it simple, you do not need to use all the tools or flexibilities of the space at once!

7. Use the technology to engage students and enhance learning.

The technologies available can open opportunities for more collaborative learning. For example, students can use their own devices to share information, engage and collaborate in groups or with the whole class.



Digital Classroom

8. Move around the learning space.

Remember you do not always need to stand behind or beside a podium, or in front of the class. Changing your position and moving to various parts of the space can help you engage with all your students.

9. Try new things ... and don't worry if they don't work first time.

This is a new space for everyone, so it will take staff and students time to acclimatise and identify what works best. Once you have tried something, reflect on what worked and whether it might be improved. And remember, there is plenty of support to help you in this new space.

10. Talk to your colleagues and share your practice.

These conversations will enable us to learn from each other what works well and how to develop. The LTA and LTES can also provide support, so do get in touch if you have questions or would like to discuss a new activity or approach.

11. Accessibility matters.

Make sure you check in with your students to ask what support they need to be able to access or engage in the new learning spaces. Make use of the built-in accessibility options such as induction loops. When asking students to move around, remember that students may have different levels of mobility and that not all mobility limitations are visible. The disability service and IS team can provide support. Most importantly, keep communicating with your students to ensure they feel supported.



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN PREPARING YOUR SESSIONS:

- How flexible is the learning space?
- How will you introduce the activity?
- Do students need to do any work prior to the session?
How will you communicate this to them?
- Will students be willing to engage in the planned activity?
If not, what will you do?
- What is your role during the activity?
- Are you expecting breakout groups to work independently in other areas outside the learning space? If so, how will you monitor this?

FURTHER RESOURCES

Learning and Teaching Academy

The Learning and Teaching Academy can provide advice and support on pedagogy and practice e.g. active learning, making the most of learning spaces, teaching online and on-campus simultaneously.

Email: LTAcademy@hw.ac.uk

Information services

Information services can provide advice and support to use technology e.g. how to use the projection screens, touch displays etc.

Email: ISHelp@hw.ac.uk



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