

Using ABC Learning Design at Heriot-Watt University

[ABC Learning Design](#) is a model for developing your course design. It takes the format of a sprint-based workshop where the course team work together to create a visual storyboard for the course using pre-formatted cards. The cards represent the type and sequence of learning activities (both online and offline) required to meet the course or programme learning outcomes. A standard ABC review takes c. 90 minutes, although you can, of course, take longer if you wish. These workshops can be conducted in-person or online.

The Learning and Teaching Academy can provide guidance to course teams on course design and using the ABC Learning Design approach.

Method:

1. Download a copy of the [ABC Learning Design at Heriot-Watt cards](#)
2. If you are working online, you might find it useful to access the example [ABC Learning Design Padlet](#), then set up a duplicate of this. Equally you can make notes in whichever way you find most useful.
3. In your course team read through the different ABC learning design cards to familiarise yourself with the definitions and examples.
4. Use the cards to think about the different activities students will undertake each week during the course and how these will contribute to the assessment and meeting the learning outcomes.
5. For each week, make notes as to the activities the students will undertake and the learning type that this represents.
6. Once you have worked through each week of the course, review to see the balance of activities is how you would want it e.g. are any learning types over or under-represented in the planned activities. Use this information to amend any activities as required.
7. As you develop the course, regularly checking your activities against the plan you have created to ensure that what you are developing reflects your plan.

Further resources

ABC Learning Design <https://abc-ld.org/>

ABC at UCL <https://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/abc-ld/>



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