

Vision for Technology-Enhanced Learning

Institutional context

At the University of Reading we are embracing the challenges of Higher Education in the 21st Century by expanding our global reach, investing in overseas campuses, encouraging more flexible modes of learning and preparing our graduates for employment in a rapidly changing workplace.

In our Learning and Teaching Strategy (2013-2018) we highlight our aim: *“to produce graduates with sound academic knowledge and essential skills ... This will be achieved by providing an intellectually challenging learning experience within a supportive educational environment that is responsive to the needs of our students.”* In particular, the Strategy states: *“we will develop and incorporate evolving technology-enhanced learning methods, where appropriate, in our programmes to ensure that students and staff have access to the best learning environment possible.”*

The role of Technology-Enhanced Learning

Technology-Enhanced Learning (TEL) is learning which is supported, mediated or assessed by the use of electronic media and it has a fundamental role to play in the delivery of the University's strategic objectives. TEL concerns the use of new or established technology and/or the creation of new learning materials; it can be utilised both locally and at a distance and it can cover a wide range of activities, from the use of technology to support learning as part of a blended approach, to learning that is delivered wholly online.

Our vision for TEL

The University of Reading will be recognised globally as a Higher Education Institution that embraces and promotes effective and appropriate use of technology in teaching and learning. The University's educational portfolio will include a range of fully online, blended and campus-based programmes which exploit the benefits of technology and mobile learning. Reading graduates will be recognised as being digitally literate and be highly valued in the global workplace. The University will recruit digitally competent staff and provide development opportunities and training for existing staff to enable them to make informed choices and best use of technology-enhanced learning in their professional roles. Our campuses and infrastructure will provide and support technologies that enable technology-enhanced and flexible modes of learning.

Achieving our vision

Our vision and priorities for TEL align closely with the overarching strategy of the University and contribute to achieving the aspirations of the University as a whole. Therefore, over the period 2013-2018, our aims for TEL are for students and staff to work in partnership to:

- improve the quality and variety of the learning experience;
- support globalisation and the extension of our partnerships and international ventures;

- improve the employability of all students and prepare them for life and work in a digital world.

Guided by these aims, the broad TEL strategy has **three strands**:

1. To further embed **existing** technologies, underpinned by specified expectations of use;
2. To develop and explore **new** areas of TEL activity and other technologies;
3. To embed and support the above with **foundational and cross-cutting** initiatives.

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