

The ABC of virtual interaction

Interactive ways to increase students' well-being in distance learning



Make sure students are heard

- Ask if students have any questions or comments
- Give time to respond and comment (please note the delay in responses)
- Leave time for questions
- Listen and be present

Involve students

- Encourage students to participate in the discussion
- Use small groups and other inclusion methods in teaching
- Encourage students to use the camera, for example, at the beginning and end of a lecture, and during group work
- Take into account the importance of non-verbal communication, so use the camera yourself too

Be available

- Specify when you are available and tell others how to reach you
- Communicate with students outside the “classroom”, for example by informing about topical issues related to the course
- Communicate clearly and stay active in that
- Check communication channels regularly

Use the community expertise

- Collect feedback from students on distance learning
- Share tried and tested practices among colleagues
- If necessary, ask students for help
- Ask for support within the community and offer it to others

Set up rules

- Agree on how the speeches will be distributed and when questions can be asked, e.g. Teams " Raise hand" function
- Specify when questions can be asked: during the lecture or at the end of the lecture
- Highlight which communication channels can be used in the course
- Remember to pause the lecture every now and then for a short break

Use digital tools

- Flinga (mind maps, notes)
- Zoom and Teams "breakout rooms"
- Whiteboard (digital whiteboard app: writing, drawing, stickers, notes)
- Chat (software's own chat, reactions)

Practical instructions for the teacher on how to arrange distance learning:

 <https://www.tuni.fi/it-services/handbook/2706/11962>

For more detailed instructions on how to use Teams:

 <https://www.tuni.fi/it-services/handbook/2743?page=2732>

For more detailed instructions on how to use Zoom:

 <https://www.tuni.fi/it-services/handbook/2706/2762?page=4817>