



University of Otago Distance
Learning

The Distance Campus Staff Newsletter

Important Dates

Thursday, 1 March - UniStart

Friday, 2 March - Last day to add first semester or full year papers (5pm NZ time deadline)

Friday, 16 March - Last day to delete first semester papers with refund of fees (5pm NZ time deadline)

Friday, 23 March - Last day to delete full year papers with refund of fees (5pm NZ time deadline)

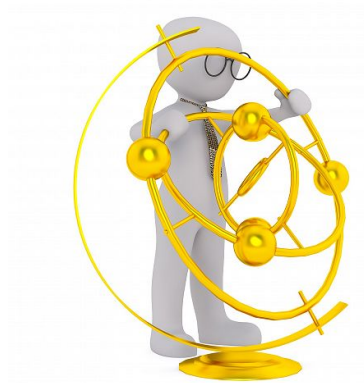
Friday, 30 March - Good Friday and mid-semester break begins

Monday, 2 April - Easter Monday

Tuesday, 3 April - Otago Anniversary Day (observed, Dunedin)

Monday, 9 April - First semester resumes

Wednesday, 25 April - ANZAC Day



March 2018

Welcome to the March 2018 edition of the Distance Campus newsletter for staff.



For your students...

Your students may find these links to workshops and resources of use/interest. Please let them know about what is on offer, and encourage them to take a look.

Analytics and Research Methodologies (ARM) workshops

The Distance Learning Office is offering a series of research workshops, *Analytics and Research Methodologies (ARM)*, presented by Associate Professor Ben Daniel from HEDC. All workshops are via Zoom and will be run in the evenings beginning in mid-March.

Bookings are open now at: <https://corpapp.otago.ac.nz/training/dl/course/course/list>

Student Learning Development (SLD) resources

SLD (which is part of HEDC) has a wide range of online resources for students. They include tip sheets and guides, general information and advice and links to workshops and other learnign

opportunities. The resources cover a wide range of essential academic skills topics such as writing, assignment writing, exam preparation, time management, just to name a few.

Resources can be found here: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/hedc/students/digital/index.html>



Workshops for 2018

A list of workshops and other events on offer for staff involved in distance learning at Otago.

Help with filling in Form 6 and Form 7!!

Help is available to convert an existing paper to a distance and/or Summer School paper in time for the approvals process.

Attend a short workshop for help completing the relevant forms on either

- 13 March: 11am – 1pm OR
- 14 March: 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Please register your interest as soon as possible by emailing distance.learning@otago.ac.nz

Analytics and Research Methodologies (ARM) workshops

The Distance Learning Office is offering a series of research workshops for postgraduate students and staff, Analytics and Research Methodologies (ARM) presented by Ben Daniel from HEDC. All workshops are via Zoom and will be run in the evenings beginning in mid-March. Bookings are open now at:

<https://corpapp.otago.ac.nz/training/dl/course/course/list>

Distance Learning Forums for 2018

Teaching Forum

This forum provides a means for teaching staff to air issues relating to distance learning. It meets four times a year and on other occasions if the need arises.

Meetings are usually held from **10am - 11am on Wednesday mornings via Zoom** so that staff may participate wherever they are. Distance administrators are also welcome to attend meetings of the Academic Forum.

[Forum Dates and Zoom meeting room for 2017](#)

- Wednesday 22 March
- Wednesday 17 May
- Wednesday 16 August
- Wednesday 15 November

Administrators Forum

Distance education administrators meet four times a year to discuss matters of interest.

Meetings are held on Thursdays at 10am **via Zoom** so that staff may participate wherever they are.

This one hour meeting is an opportunity to network, share ideas, ask questions, find out the latest news concerning the administration and support of distance students, teaching staff and papers.

[Forum Dates and Zoom meeting room for 2017](#)

- Thursday 23 March
- Thursday 18 May
- Thursday 17 August
- Thursday 16 November

New to Distance Workshop (upon request in 2018)

This two hour workshop is for people who have not taught a distance course previously or have not had to develop one. The *New-to-Distance workshop* introduces you to how distance learning happens at Otago. It explores five areas of critical importance to effective distance courses, and provides a brief and easy introduction to them.

Contact distance.learning@otago.ac.nz to arrange a workshop.

DISTAID Programme (upon request in 2018)

Those of you involved with distance teaching may be interested in the DISTAID programme, an opportunity for you to engage in an extended professional development experience.

DISTAID works by supporting your investigation of:

Distance Education through your
Investigation of how
Services and support,
Tools and technologies,
Assessment and evaluation,
Interactions, and
Design

work within distance courses and papers.

DISTAID is made up of workshops which address ideas about the five areas of distance courses that are critical for success.

The workshops: *A series of 5 workshops the focus of which is on essential topics/knowledge having relevance and importance to all distance education contexts.*

1. Course DESIGN for distance papers
2. Engaging your students and INTERACTING at a distance
3. Choosing and using TOOLS and TECHNOLOGIES in distance education
4. Supporting learning and teaching through ASSESSMENT of distance student work
5. Get them and keep them!: SUPPORTING distance students (and you)

To arrange one or more of these workshops (tailored to suit your group and to be run either online via Zoom or face-to-face on your campus, contact distance.learning@otago.ac.nz

Teaching in Summer School and/or by Distance in 2019?

Come to the Carpe Diem/Kia Tū Kia Māia workshop!

A two day workshop for people planning to (re)design a paper to be taught at a distance and/or in Summer School.

The workshop aims to provide you with an opportunity to redesign your papers in order to gain maximum teaching and learning benefit from the core digital environment that the University provides for staff and students. The workshop will focus strongly on rethinking how teaching and learning occur in a primarily digital environment in your programme and its constituent papers. It will involve staff from the Library, ITS e-Learning team, HEDC, Summer School and Distance Learning.

Date of workshop: 16th and 17th October, 2018

To find out more and to register, contact distance.learning@otago.ac.nz



Open, flexible and distance learning links....

....to various OFDL-related professional associations and organisations. (Regular feature)

Let us know about more we can add to this growing list.

- Ako Aotearoa - <https://ako.aotearoa.ac.nz/>
- The Flexible Learning Association of New Zealand (FLANZ) - <http://flanz.org.nz/>
- The Association for Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE) - <http://www.aace.org/>
- Australasian Council on Open, Distance and eLearning (ACODE) - <http://www.acode.edu.au/>
- Contact North | Nord - <https://contactnorth.ca/>
- The eLearning Guild - <https://www.elearningguild.com/>
- International Council for Distance Education (ICDE) - <http://www.icde.org/>
- LinkedIn eLearning resources - <https://learning.linkedin.com/for-higher-education>
- Open and Distance Learning Association of Australia (ODLAA) - <https://odlaa.org/>
- Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education (ascilite) - <https://ascilite.org/>

Contact the Distance Learning Office (distance.learning@otago.ac.nz) to let us know about more links to add to this list.



The date for the biennial FLANZ conference is drawing near.

The Distance Learning Office is one of the sponsors of this conference. Please make use of this!

This is the premier conference in New Zealand for leaders, practitioners and professionals involved in open, distance, flexible and mobile learning across the compulsory schooling sectors, vocational, tertiary and professional development

settings.

Because the Distance Learning Office is one of the sponsors of this conference, we will have a booth and will be able to include material in the (digital) conference bags.

Please send us any pamphlets, posters or any other information/advertising material and we will make sure that it is distributed at the conference.

We will need the material by the end of March.

Contact distance.learning@otago.ac.nz to let Fiona to send us any electronic items. We will arrange to collect any hard copy material.



Around the ridges...

A list of news items, events and points of interest from the world of open, flexible and distance learning.

EDEN (the European Distance and E-Learning Network) is supporting **Open Education Week 5-9 March 2018**. A series of (free) webinars will be run to celebrate the [Open Education Movement](#) and its impact on teaching and learning worldwide. Webinar titles include: "*The future of the distance education university*" and "*How to promote academic integrity in online education*".

More information, including how to register, can be found here: <http://www.eden-online.org/eden-at-the-open-education-week/>.

More from **EDEN**! The **EDEN 27th Annual Conference** welcomes late submissions to their conference which is to be held in Genova, Italy on the 17th to the 20th June, 2018.

The conference theme looks intriguing - *EXPLORING THE MICRO, MESO AND MACRO: Navigating between dimensions in the digital learning landscape*.

Information about the conference can be found here: http://www.eden-online.org/2018_genoa/

Transforming Assessment webinars. Series nine, 2018 begins soon!

Transforming Assessment is an international education community, bringing together experts, academics and practitioners in assessment in higher education. Now in its ninth year, the Transforming Assessment community offers **free** monthly non-commercial online seminars on a range of topics from both research and practice perspectives.

Hosted by Dr [Mathew Hillier](#), [Monash Education Academy](#), Monash University, Australia and [Professor Geoffrey Crisp](#), PVC-Education, University of New South Wales, Australia.

Find information about each session (7 have been scheduled across the year already!) and details about how to register and log in, here: <http://transformingassessment.com/>

The next session will happen on **4 April 2018**: *Shades of meaning: Nuance in written and audio feedback* (<http://ta.vu/4apr2018>)

All sessions are made available at **no cost** to speakers or participants. Sessions are recorded and published online following the live event.

Further details and session registration at <http://TransformingAssessment.com>

[Contact North | Nord](#) is hosting [ONLINE LEARNING 2018](#)

This Global Summit & EdTech Expo, Teaching & Learning in the Digital Age "is your opportunity to exchange ideas, insights, experiences and resources with faculty and instructors, practitioners, experts, instructional technology and media professionals, training providers, researchers, consultants, start-ups, policy makers, academic decision-makers and educational technology industry leaders from around the world."

October 16 -18, 2018 | The Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

For more information see: <http://globalonlinelearningsummit.ca/>
