

Transcript of top 10 questions about online learning at Heriot-Watt University

Hi, I'm professor Guy Walker and I'm an online course leader here at Heriot-Watt University. My role is to help support and guide you through your course and answer the top ten questions about online courses.

1. Is the course the same as if you were on campus?

Any program you complete as an online student gives you the exact same qualification as your on-campus peers. So, for example, if you undertake an MSc in Construction Project Management as an online learning student you'll be equally as qualified as someone who undertakes an MSc in Construction Project Management at Edinburgh or Dubai campuses. Your degree certificates are exactly the same.

2. How does online study work?

With online study there are no fixed lecture times. This enables you to choose when and where you learn, making it much easier to fit your studies around your other commitments at home or at work. You learn through our Heriot-Watt virtual learning environment the VLE and here you can access your course materials, chat with other students on your course and also talk to your course leader.

3. When can I start studying?

We have several start dates per year. You can visit our website to find out the next available start date for your course or you can email for more information.

4. What equipment do I need?

To study online you'll need two things. You need a suitable computer, either Microsoft Windows or Apple and you also need regular access to a reliable internet connection.

5. How do I pay for my programme?

Your programme consists of a number of courses and perhaps a research project or a dissertation. You pay as you go when you register. The methods of payment are credit or debit card, banker's draft, UK cheque or bank transfer. We recommend using the online payment system as this is the quickest and simplest method. For UK students you can receive a postgraduate loan through SAAS or even Student Finance England.

6. Where are the exams sat?

Exams are usually organised in each student's country of residence through the British Council or other partners. Most of our students don't have to travel great distances to sit their exams.

7. How long does an online programme take?

On average, our postgraduate diploma programmes are completed in two to three years, while Masters programmes are completed in two and a half to seven years.

8. How many courses do I study per semester?

We normally recommend studying a maximum of two courses per semester and this is the same as part-time students on-campus. If you wish, you could take just one course per semester or, if you need to, you can take a break during a particular semester.

9. What support is available?

As a student on one of our online programmes you can expect friendly and helpful support from the moment you make your first inquiry right through to your graduation. Your tutor for each course will provide you with feedback on your assignments to help monitor your progress as you go. Also, our dedicated online student support team will be on hand throughout your studies to answer your questions and guide you through the programme. The Student Association's advice hub is on hand to offer you free impartial and confidential advice on a range of issues from academic to health and well-being.

10. When and where do graduation ceremonies take place?

Heriot-Watt University holds graduation ceremonies each year at our campuses in Scotland, Dubai and Malaysia. Students also have the option to graduate in absentia which means you

don't have to attend the ceremony and you'll receive your degree certificate by post. If you have any other questions at all, please feel free to contact our dedicated online student support team at the email showing on screen now – egis-idl-enquiries@hw.ac.uk