



THE OBSERVATORY
on Borderless Higher Education

Global Forum 2017

11th – 12th December, One Drummond Gate, London

Ready or Not? The Role of Online Learning in Higher Education

Working Programme – subject to changes

Whatever you call it- online, digital, virtual, e-learning- it has been a rough ride. In the 1990's, champions imagined a near-future of dramatically better access to higher education, a wealth of online learning resources and plummeting costs. All over the world, students would be able to enrol at the best universities, and all but the top institutions would perish. Reality proved a bit more complicated.

The Observatory's 2017 Global Forum will reassess the potential of online and blended learning in higher education, to meet the needs of domestic and international students. Drawing on a unique series of country studies from around the world, this event is an opportunity to engage with the latest data, learn from experience, and consider new models and technologies.

Monday 11th December

09:00-09:30

Registration and Refreshments

09:30-09:45

Welcome (Richard Garrett, Director, OBHE)

09:45-10:30

Key Takeaways from the Observatory's 2017 Online Higher Education Country Case Studies (The Observatory Team)

In 2017, the Observatory assessed the state of online and blended higher education around the world, from the United States to India, and Mexico to China. Hear our take on whether, where and why online learning is ready for action.

10:30-11:00

Coffee and Networking

11:00-11:45

Simon Nelson, CEO, FutureLearn

FutureLearn is one of the world's major MOOC providers, with university and other partners in the UK and internationally. Simon Nelson will discuss the impact of MOOCs to date, MOOC degrees, and FutureLearn's evolving business model.

11:45-12:45

World Café- Part 1

Always one of the most popular features of our Global Forums, the World Café is all about small-group discussion. Delegates have the opportunity to talk directly with experts on online learning from around the world, and to share their own goals and challenges. Hosts and delegates learn a lot. Hosts to be announced shortly.

12:45-13:45

Lunch

13:45-14:30

Swinburne Online and SEEK- Duncan Bentley, DVC (Academic), Swinburne University of Technology, Australia

Swinburne Online has quickly become Australia's leading provider of online degrees. Founded in 2011, in partnership with SEEK, Australia's top jobs and career marketplace, Swinburne Online now enrolls over 9,000 students. Duncan Bentley will explore Swinburne's model and plans for international expansion.

14:30-15:15

Professional Bodies, Institutions and Online Learning

Some professional bodies are among the most internationalized education providers in the world, and many have been quick to embrace online and blended learning. This panel session will explore alliances between professional bodies and higher education institutions, and tensions between learning provision and award of qualifications. **Chair: Mary Bishop, ACCA Global Forum for Education.**

15:15-15:30

Coffee and Networking

15:30-16:15

Contemporary challenges and opportunities of online universities - Josep Planell, Rector, Universitat Oberta Catalunya (UOC), Spain

Open University of Catalonia (UOC), founded in 1994, is one of the world's pioneer fully online universities. Today the university enrolls over 50,000 students in Catalonia, in Spain, and around the globe, not least in Latin America. Programmes are offered in Spanish and English, as well as Catalan. Josep Planell will reflect on lessons learned, and offer his take on the future of fully online and blended learning.

16:15-17:00

Online Learning in Practice - international institutional case studies

- Fernando León García, President, CETYS University, Mexico
- Jo Smedley, Director of USW Online, University of South Wales
- Marinke Sussenbach, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands
- Jon Taylor, Teaching Fellow for Technology-Enhanced Learning, Aston University

17:00-18:00

Drinks Reception

Tuesday 12th December

09:00-09:30

Arrival Refreshments

09:30-09:45

Welcome and Introduction to Day 2- The Observatory

09:45-10:30

Mary Stiasny, PVC (International) and Chief Executive, University of London International Programmes

The University of London has unrivalled experience with cross-border distance learning, and runs one of the biggest operations of its kind in the world. Mary Stiasny will explain the history and key features of the *International Programmes* model, and some of the pedagogical and technological innovations under development.

10:30-11:00

Coffee and Networking

11:00-11:45

Quality Assurance Panel- how to handle cross-border online learning

Online learning casts aside geographical borders but must contend with national quality assurance agencies. This session will hear from quality assurance leaders from around the world- panellists to be announced- about different national efforts to accommodate cross-border online delivery, and a unique initiative to enhance quality assurance through inter-agency cooperation.

11:45-12:45

World Café- Part 2

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Learning Analytics- Sizing Up the Promise

The generation of granular, personalized insights about learning effectiveness is the tantalizing promise of learning analytics. A panel of companies and institutions will showcase some innovative partnerships and sift rhetoric from reality in this complex area.

Chair: Phil Richards, CIO, Jisc

- Ben Betts, CEO, HT2 Labs
- Nick Moore, Director of LTI, University of Gloucestershire
- TBC

14:30-15:15

Expert Panel: Chris Ziguras, Professor and Deputy Dean at RMIT, Australia and Paul Bacsich, Sero Consulting and Matic Media, Helen O'Sullivan, Associate PVC Online Learning, University of Liverpool

Two of the world's experts on transnational education and cross-border online learning give their views on why online has been slower to take off than many expected, and whether the future holds evolution or revolution.

15:15-15:30

Closing comments- The Observatory

For more information or to register

www.obhe.org / info@obhe.ac.uk / [@theobhe](https://twitter.com/theobhe)