

STUDENT GUIDE TO ONLINE & HYBRID LEARNING

Five Tips to Succeed in Online Learning

- Proactive:** Treat online learning seriously. Review all uploaded teaching materials before class.
- Place:** Find a quiet and suitable location for accessing wifi to attend your online lessons.
- Presence:** Know your class schedule and 'show up' at your online lessons and discussion groups.
- Participation:** Participate actively in online discussions and other learning activities.
- Planning:** Create a weekly out-of-class learning schedule, then set reminders for yourself.

Online versus Hybrid Learning

If you are attending a hybrid teaching session *online*, then the guidelines for online learning still apply. Wherever possible, students are encouraged to turn their cameras and microphones on, to provide valuable visual and oral cues that can aid communication and lead to richer interactions. If you are attending it *face-to-face*, be prepared to bring along devices such as a laptop if asked to do so by your teacher, and remember to mute the microphone and volume.

Dos and Don'ts for Online Learning

To give you more ideas of what to do and not to do in online learning, here is a list of Dos and Don'ts. Consult your department/ programme leader/ subject teachers for specific dos and don'ts related to your programme and subject.

| Do | Don't |
|---|---|
| ✓ Use the online tools to communicate with your teachers | ✗ Be shy or wait until too late |
| ✓ Create the opportunity to engage in group discussions with your classmates | ✗ Be shy or wait until your classmates approach you |
| ✓ Be motivated, engaged and persistent in learning | ✗ Be discouraged, disengaged and give up easily |
| ✓ Manage your time well | ✗ Procrastinate until the last minute |
| ✓ Make a daily to-do list | ✗ Study and do your work at random without a plan |
| ✓ Seek help whenever needed | ✗ Hesitate and worry without asking for help |
| ✓ Start doing your homework/ assignment early | ✗ Start doing homework/ assignment at the last minute |
| ✓ Contact your teachers immediately when you encounter any problems/questions | ✗ Wait until there is an issue and try to find your teachers |
| ✓ Maintain close communication with your teachers and fellow students | ✗ Not contact or respond to your teachers and fellow students |
| ✓ Utilise other learning resources available to you (e.g. library, tutor, academic advising, counseling) | ✗ Solely rely on the materials provided at the online platform |
| ✓ Maintain academic integrity | ✗ Cheat or commit plagiarism |
| ✓ Visit the subject site (e.g. Blackboard, Microsoft Teams) regularly (say, 2 or 3 times a week) to see if there are any new announcements, updates, course materials, and feedback | ✗ Visit the subject site only when required (e.g. submitting assignments) |

The following are some checklists that are designed for you to use. We hope you will have a smooth transition and fruitful experience of online learning. Please consult your department/ programme leader/ subject teachers if you have queries about the checklists.

Basic Preparations for Online Learning

Check that you have the following before the start of your online lessons, preferably at least three days before the first lesson to allow you time to get any outstanding preparation done. If you are unable to resolve the problems by yourself, you should consult your department/ programme leader/ subject teachers immediately.

| Basic preparations for online learning | Self-Check | If your answer is 'no'... |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Do you have access to a computer and stable internet connection? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | Consider where you can go safely for a stable internet connection, or a quiet and suitable place to go online. The campus is an option but be sure to make all necessary precautions as advised by the University. |
| 2. Do you have access to a quiet and suitable place to attend your online lessons? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | |
| 3. Do you have your semester timetable? The live online sessions will generally take place at the scheduled time for lectures/tutorials. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | Ask your department for the information. |
| 4. Do you know which online platform (e.g., Blackboard, Microsoft Teams) will be used for each subject you are taking this semester? Do you have access to these online platforms? (Note: The platform used for online lessons may vary across subjects.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | Check emails from your subject teachers stating the online platform to be used for each subject. Contact your subject teachers as soon as possible if you have not received any email about this. |
| 5. Do you have your instructors/tutors contact information handy? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | Save your instructors/tutors' contacts in your mobile phone or in your email address book. |
| 6. (Add other things you will do to further prepare yourself for online teaching.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | |

For more resources and information of online learning at PolyU, please visit the website below:
<https://www.polyu.edu.hk/its/online-learning/index.html>

Preparations for Online Learning in Subjects You Take

Online learning can be both fun and fruitful. If you tick 'no' to any of the tips below, take prompt action to get the preparation done.

| Basic preparations for each subject | Self-Check |
|--|---|
| 1. Familiarise yourself with the subject site (e.g., Blackboard, Microsoft Teams, and/or other online platform), e.g. navigation, contents. Find out more from the Resources for Online Learning at the end of this guide. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2. Make sure that you know when the online lessons will take place. If you are in a different time zone, beware of the time difference between your location and Hong Kong. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3. Read the information about how to attend the online lessons for each subject. (Note: The platform used for online lessons may vary across subjects.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 4. Pay attention to your teacher's pre-lesson communications, and make sure that you have downloaded all necessary course related materials on your personal computer/ mobile device <i>before each lesson</i> . | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 5. Read the course syllabus and familiarise yourself with the subject learning outcomes. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

In general, **before** each lesson you should:

| Preparations before each lesson | Self-Check |
|--|---|
| 1. Make sure that you have done all lesson preparations, including last lesson's homework. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2. Find yourself a quiet location, with good lighting and comfortable seating. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3. Eliminate distractions, e.g. turn off your mobile phone, log off social networks and media. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 4. Check your computer, internet connection, and access to the subject site (e.g. Blackboard, Microsoft Teams, and/or other online platforms). | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For synchronous lessons, see if you need a microphone for participation in online discussions and Q&A. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For asynchronous sessions, check that you can access the learning materials. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For viewing PowerPoint slides with voiceover or videos, check the sound system on your computer. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are asked to join discussion groups outside the common online sessions, confirm the date and time that your group meets online. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

In general, **during** each lesson, you should:

| Things to do during each lesson | Self-Check |
|--|---|
| 1. Listen attentively and follow the directions given by your teacher on the spot (e.g. mute the microphone when it is not your turn to speak). | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2. Be active and engage in the online teaching and learning activities (e.g. join a Breakout group, respond to a Poll, share your work via Whiteboard). | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3. Observe the 'netiquette' when interacting with others online. See this webpage (https://www.ucl.ac.uk/teaching-learning/education-planning-2021-22/online-teaching-guidance-tips-and-platforms/netiquette-good-online) for some tips. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 4. Take notes of the online lecture. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

In general, **after** each lesson you should:

| Things to do after each lesson | Self-Check |
|---|---|
| 1. Find out what homework/assignment you need to do and by when. Mark down the due date(s) on your calendar. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2. Work out a plan on how and when to complete your homework/assignment and stick to your plan. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3. Revise the course materials and content covered in the lesson and ask your teacher for clarification if there is anything you do not understand. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 4. Contact your classmates for group work and assignments. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Preparations for Online Assessments

Preparations for online assessment (e.g., online quizzes, tests, and exams) may not be the same as preparations for paper-based or f2f assessment and may be challenging sometimes. Below are some tips for you to prepare for your online assessments.

| Preparations for online assessments | Self-Check |
|--|---|
| 1. Check the due date of, or the time allowed, for the assessment. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2. Confirm the assessment format (e.g. online quizzes, essays, open-book exam, participation in group discussion), submission channel and procedure. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3. Make sure that you are clear about the assessment requirements and criteria (e.g. marking criteria, rubrics). | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 4. Familiarise yourself with the online submission system and procedure. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 5. If there is a Turnitin requirement, make sure it is met. Allow time for Turnitin to generate your originality report. For more details, refer to the student guide at https://libguides.lb.polyu.edu.hk/academic-integrity/similarity-checking . | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 6. Save your work often and back up regularly. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 7. Seek feedback from your subject teachers/ tutors regularly to enhance your learning and performance. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

We hope you find the guidelines above helpful, and we wish you a rewarding online learning experience. Stay motivated and engaged in the learning process. Remember to consult your department/ programme leader/ subject teachers if you have any queries.

General Resources for Online Learning

1. The Open University. (n.d.). *Study Skills for online learning*. Retrieved from <https://help.open.ac.uk/topic/computing/category/study-skills-for-online-learning>
2. The University of British Columbia. (n.d.). *Online Learners*. Retrieved from <https://learningcommons.ubc.ca/resource-guides/online-learners/>