

Strengths and weaknesses of internet as a site for learning and teaching: surveying student perspectives

In the first workshop everyone identified the main potential drawback of e-learning as the loss/ lack of face-to-face contact between teachers and students, as well as between students. There are other drawbacks that are often cited: e.g. time to learn and apply the technologies, technical issues, lack of skills, students not engaging with the technology.

We also identified a number of potential benefits and I've outlined some more today. But these are my and, to a lesser extent, your ideas. What about the students? What do they think about the positive and negative effects of technology on their learning?

The best way to find out is to ask them. Over the lunch break, I'd like you to conduct a small piece of direct research to find out the answer to the questions yourselves. So, while you're on your way to lunch or in the cafeteria, you need to 'interview' a student to find out the following information.

- 1. If they have used technologies in their studies at university (or elsewhere).**
- 2. Whether they found it useful, and how.**
- 3. Whether there were any problems or drawbacks.**
- 4. Whether they would like more or less use of technology in their teaching and why.**

You might want to note down which course the student(s) are studying too (it doesn't have to be Theology, but it would be interesting for us to know).