Flexible Learning

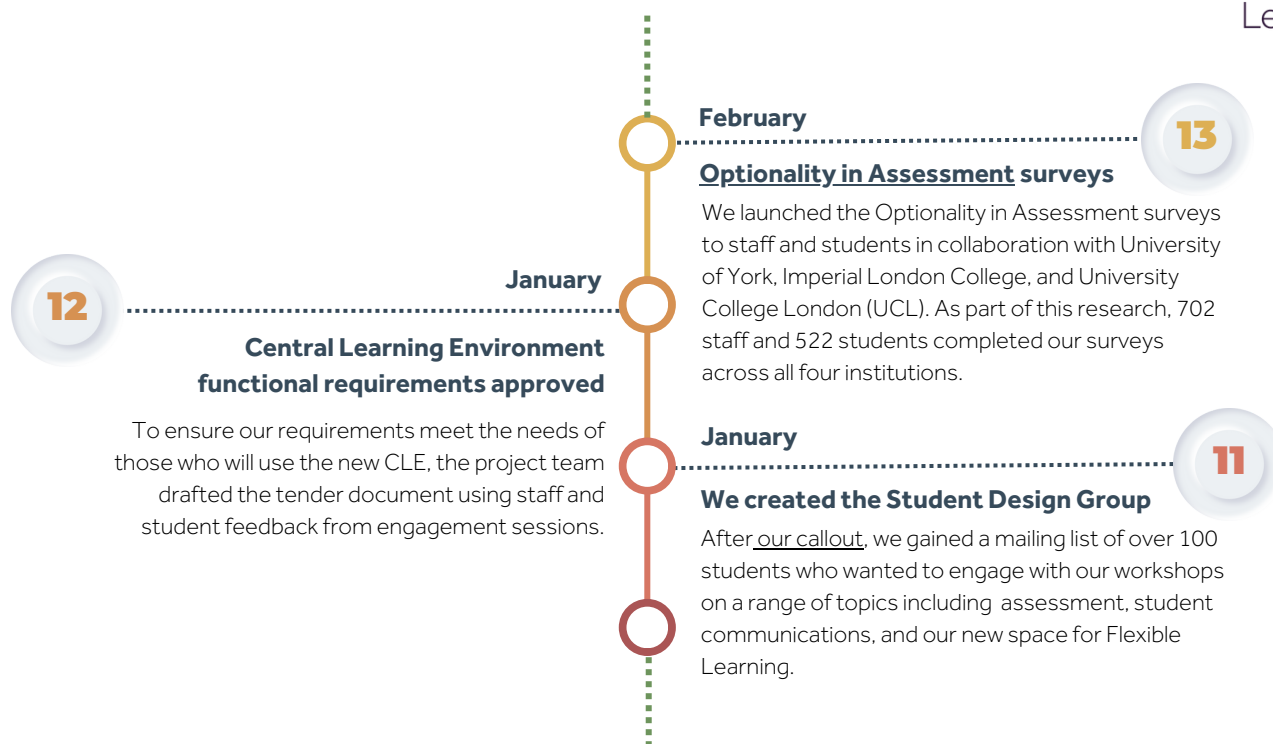# What have we achieved so far in the Flexible Learning Programme?

2023

November

31

We announced Canvas as our new Central Learning Environment (CLE)

After extensive engagement with staff and students, Canvas will be replacing Blackboard in 2025.

November

30

Jisc Digital Experience Insights Survey

To improve and advance the University's digital experience, we launched this survey in partnership with Jisc to our students, teaching staff and professional services.

November

29

Initial developments of the software ecosystem workstream

We've started the first steps of the software ecosystem workstream, which will handle all the teaching and learning tools we use outside of the Central Learning Environment.

November

28

Digital Learning Service (DLS) workshops

We completed our series of the Digital Learning Service (DLS) workshops, where we invited nearly 30 people, resulting in a high-level concept of the service design.

November

27

Assessment report

We've completed our assessment report where we sought data from across the University on assessment and feedback to determine if the information was consistent across schools and faculties. We presented our recommendations to TLSG in November.

November

26

The Optionality in Assessment project

The dissemination of our research was completed via a national online conference where over 200 colleagues and students signed up to hear about this research. We've also published Report A 'Project findings' on The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) website.

November

25

Assessment toolkit launched to students

The feedback of over 150 staff and students, gathered across 12 interactive online workshops, shaped the toolkit. We will continue to add to the toolkit until Spring 2024.

November

24

We launched our Pilot guidance

We launched our guidance to support those who have submitted pilot proposals in their delivery. You can find out more about how to submit a pilot here.

October — 23

We began our Flexible Learning Roadshow

Starting with the Students' Union and finishing at the Main Library, we successfully engaged with hundreds of students on campus about our programme.

22 — October

We recruited student digital capabilities reps

In collaboration with the Students' Union, we recruited reps to help embed, champion and cascade development and recognition opportunities relating to digital capabilities.

October — 21

A second round of recruitment for our student design group

We now have nearly 400 students that can take part in our student engagement activities to shape the future of flexible learning.

20 — October

We launched the Assessment Toolkit to staff

We had over 3,000 views of our launched pages. We are continually update the toolkit with new content.

July - August — 19

Over 260 staff and students completed CLE usability testing

Our staff and students tested three different systems for our new CLE, They were chosen from a pool of over 1,700 staff and students, who signed up for our usability testing.

18 — June – August

Optionality in Assessment Engagement

·After our Optionality in Assessment surveys in spring, we co-hosted eight focus groups and 11 semi-structured interviews, with a total of 1275 individuals engaging in this project.

May — 17

We signed a five-year agreement with HyperionDev

This collaboration aims to bridge the widening tech skills employment gap in the UK, building on the success achieved during the pilot phase, offering courses to our alumni.

16 — March

Flexible Learning Pilots launched

We launched our first call for expressions of interest for our flexible learning pilots to support our goal to innovate teaching and learning at the University.

March — 15

Prospect House opens

After a successful refurbishment, Prospect House opens as our new temporary Flexible Learning space.

14 — March

Our CLE Tender Bid went live

·Our invitation for companies to submit a tender bid for the Central Learning Environment (CLE) went live.

February

13

Optionality in Assessment surveys

We launched the Optionality in Assessment surveys to staff and students in collaboration with University of York, Imperial London College, and University College London (UCL). As part of this research, 702 staff and 522 students completed our surveys across all four institutions.

January

12

Central Learning Environment functional requirements approved

To ensure our requirements meet the needs of those who will use the new CLE, the project team drafted the tender document using staff and student feedback from engagement sessions.

January

11

We created the Student Design Group

After our callout, we gained a mailing list of over 100 students who wanted to engage with our workshops on a range of topics including assessment, student communications, and our new space for Flexible Learning.

2022

October

10

Senate endorsed our Flexible Learning Strategy

Created with staff and students across the university:

- Over 30 workshops held with more than 650 students and staff, and over 4000 comments received.

October

9

We launched the Lifelong Learning Portal

We launched the Lifelong Learning Portal available for prospective learners and staff as a one-stop-shop for lifelong learning courses.

August

8

We implemented the Jisc Discovery Tool

The discovery tool helps develop staff and students' digital capabilities through self assessment. We have embedded the tool across the University including the Library's My Learning Essentials and L&OD in the staff mandatory package.

August

7

We published the Digital Learning Environment review report

Over 1000 unique student and staff feedback statements contributed to the creation of 107 distinct user requirements. This provided us with five recommendations moving forwards: Flexible delivery of programmes; Data and Integrations; Inclusivity and Accessibility; Support; Technology.

July

6

We published 'Getting the Blend Right' Paper

Our 'Getting the Blend Right' paper outlined a framework for staff that underpins the University's approach to design and action Blended Learning activities for all learners.

2021

November

Digital Learning Environment (DLE) engagement workshops

We held engagement workshops with staff and students for them to feed into the user requirements for our next CLE.

5

September

Flexible Learning Strategy engagement workshops

We explored six themes with our staff and students to shape our strategy including Assessment, Accessibility, Training and skills, Technology (software and hardware), Space on campus and Innovation.

4

September

We recruited Student Partners

Six student partners became embedded into programme team assigned across all of our workstreams. Since 2021, we continue to recruit student partners to ensure the student voice plays a key role in the direction of our programme.

3

June

Digital Learning Environment review announced

We announced the Digital Learning Environment review and confirmed the group membership of those responsible for reviewing and defining our digital infrastructure for teaching and learning.

2

April

Senate approved the 'First Steps to Flexible Learning' paper

Based on extensive engagement with staff and students, our 'First Steps to Flexible Learning' paper was approved by Senate at its April 2021 meeting.

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