



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

### 2024

**April Jisc Digital Experience Insights** Surveys closed Nearly 400 students and over 400 staff April completed the surveys voicing their feedback and opinions on the university's **Tender with Executive Education in AMBS** digital experience. to provide training to 4200 learners We have supported a tender with ExecEd to **April** provide line management training to 4200 learners worth £4.2 million within the civil service -**Introduced Digital Champions student** supported by KPMG. volunteering opportunity In partnership with Manchester City Council and March the Flexible Learning Programme, a new student volunteering opportunity is available to support Flexible Learning Teaching digitally excluded people in Manchester. **Innovation Space** We opened our permanent Flexible Learning Innovation Space, where a range of innovative March teaching and learning facilities are available including virtual reality suites, lifelong learning suites and more. **Microsoft Certifications Pilot** We launched the introduction of Microsoft Fundamentals Certifications for students to March support their digital skills development and employability and better understand the demand **Greater Manchester Civic Panel on** for industry recognised certifications. **Lifelong Learning** Our Lifelong Learning team, in partnership with The Greater Manchester Civil Panel and Public First, held an March evening discussion focused on lifelong learning. This activity forms part of the Lifelong Learning Business Lifelong Learning Alumni Survey, and the Strategic and KTP Partner Survey Insight Plan. Our alumni survey, with 666 responses, provides **February** valuable insights on key skills areas and preferred 41 learning styles. The strategic and KTP partner 'Optionality in Assessment' survey involved creating an online questionnaire project completed tailored for Learning & Development leads of 15 We completed our project, exploring the strategic partners and 15 KTP partners. feasibility and practicality of students having choice in their assessment, with 12 case studies

published online along with two media

resources.





**February** Manchester announced as UNESCO City of Lifelong Learning We are pleased to be leading the lifelong learning approach **February** and to have contributed to the successful bid. To address the challenges around accessing talent and sector-specific digital Our Digital Learning Service (DLS) skills, our programme will lead on the development of design approved Manchester's Digital Skills Framework (MDSF). After extensive collaboration, our design for the DLS January - February has been approved. The DLS will act as a wrapper around the existing digital learning teams and Elearning teams receive access to structures across the University. We provided our eLearning teams with early access to **January - February** Canvas, our new Central Learning Environment, to start testing and familiarising with the interface. Provided by **New Digital Capability Student Rep role** Instructure, our Pedagogy group and eLearning teams also in partnership with the Students' Union completed their fundamentals training for Canvas. In collaboration with the Students' Union, we created a new Rep role to help embed, champion and cascade development and recognition opportunities relating to digital capabilities. 2023 **December Discovery Days with Instructure** Colleagues, from Instructure and our University, came together to understand the supplier's **November** preferred ways of working and approach to implementation as well as UoM providing more We announced Canvas as our new of an insight into the University landscape Central Learning Environment (CLE) After extensive engagement with staff and November students, Canvas will be replacing Blackboard in 2025. Launched the **Jisc Digital Experience Insights Surveys** To improve and advance the University's digital November experience, we launched this survey in partnership with Jisc to our students, teaching Initial developments of the software staff and professional services. 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** Digital Learning Service (DLS) workshops We completed our series of the Digital Learning Service (DLS) workshops, where we invited nearly **November** 30 people, resulting in a high-level concept of the service design. **Assessment report** We've completed our assessment report where we sought data from across the University on assessment November and feedback to determine if the information was consistent across schools and faculties. We presented The Optionality in Assessment project our recommendations to TLSG in November. 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. November We've also published a report on the project findings on Assessment toolkit (shell) launched The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) website. to students The feedback of over 150 staff and students. **November** gathered across 12 interactive online workshops, shaped the toolkit. We will continue to add to the We launched our Pilot guidance toolkit until Summer 2024. We launched our guidance to support those who have submitted pilot proposals in their October delivery. You can find out more about <u>how to</u> submit a pilot here. We began our Flexible Learning Roadshow Starting with the Students' Union and finishing at October the Main Library, we successfully engaged with hundreds of students on campus about our We recruited student digital programme. capabilities reps In collaboration with the Students' Union, we October recruited reps to help embed, champion and cascade development and recognition A second round of recruitment for opportunities relating to digital capabilities. our student design group We now have nearly 400 students that can October take part in our student engagement activities to shape the future of flexible We launched the Assessment learning.

Toolkit (Shell) to staff
We had over 3,000 views of our launched

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

July - August

# 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.





June - August **Optionality in Assessment Engagement** ·After our Optionality in Assessment surveys in June - August spring, we co-hosted eight focus groups and 11 ....... semi-structured interviews, with a total of 1275 Microsoft 365 champions launch individuals engaging in this project. workshops for staff In collaboration with the University Microsoft 365 Champions Network (launched by ITS in 2022), and March 20 L&OD, new workshops on Microsoft 365 are now We signed a five-year agreement with available to all staff via the Training Catalogue. **HyperionDev** This collaboration aims to bridge the widening March tech skills employment gap in the UK, building on the success achieved during the pilot phase, Flexible Learning Pilots launched offering courses to our alumni. We launched our first call for expressions of interest for our <u>flexible learning pilots</u> to March support our goal to innovate teaching and 18 learning at the University. **Prospect House opens** After a successful refurbishment, Prospect House opens as our new temporary Flexible Learning space. March 17 **Our CLE Tender Bid went live** Our invitation for companies to submit a tender bid for the Central Learning Environment (CLE) **February** went live. 16 **Manchester Access Programme** participants gain access to the Jisc **Discovery tool February** We sought and received permission from Jisc to extend Discovery tool access to Manchester Optionality in Assessment surveys Access Programme participants We launched the Optionality in Assessment surveys to staff and students in collaboration with University of York, Imperial London College, and University January 14 College London (UCL). As part of this research, 702 staff and 522 students completed our surveys **Central Learning Environment** across all four institutions. functional requirements approved To ensure our requirements meet the needs of January those who will use the new CLE, the project team drafted the tender document using staff and We created the Student Design Group student feedback from engagement sessions. 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

We launched t

October

# We launched the <u>Lifelong Learning</u> Portal

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

9

July

### We published <u>'Getting the Blend Right'</u> Paper

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

12

### Senate endorsed our <u>Flexible</u> <u>Learning Strategy</u>

<u>Created with staff and students across the university:</u>

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

#### August

10

#### We published the Digital Learning Environment review report

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

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#### May

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# Published Supporting digital capabilities online resource

With the Institute for Teaching and Learning, we created the <u>'Supporting Student Digital Capabilities'</u> online resource – supporting colleagues involved in curriculum design and delivery to embed and enhance digital capabilities within the curriculum.

### 2021

6

September

#### We <u>implemented the Jisc</u> <u>Discovery Tool</u>

·The Discovery tool helps develop staff and students' digital capabilities through self-assessment. In collaboration with the Library, we embedded the tool in the dedicated My Learning Essentials 'Develop your digital capabilities', and in L&OD's online 'Develop your digital skills' resource.

#### November

7

# 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.





4

#### September

### We recruited Student Partners

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

2

#### June

#### <u>Digital Learning Environment review</u> announced

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

September

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# 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.

#### August

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## New digital capabilities resource added to Academic Advising Toolkit.

The 'Supporting discussions around digital capabilities with students 'resource for Academic Advisors introduces digital capabilities and outlines how students can be supported to consider their development once they have their personalised digital capabilities reports

#### **April**

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#### Senate approved the <u>'First Steps to</u> <u>Flexible Learning'</u> 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.