

Expert pool: Student Support

Institutional support for prospective and new students in online and distance education

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Abstract

Do you know what are the main necessities and difficulties of prospective and new students in blended and online learning environments? Do you know why they quit while giving their first steps in their studies?

Would you like to know how to design and implement effective induction programmes mediated by ICT?

Would you like to know about innovative and creative ways to give support to students during their first academic year to prevent dropout and promote retention?

Research being done in distance education universities all over the world consistently reveals that students' dropout takes place primarily during the first year and, even, before the exams of the first semester. That means that great efforts should be placed during this period of time to promote retention.

In this sense, induction programmes in blended and online learning programmes would require being implemented before students' registration, and should be actively developed during early beginning of the first course and offered all along the first university year. Anyhow, any online training programme should look forward a good integration of participants, by designing its own induction plan. **The main goal would be to improve students' retention and success and drop-out prevention.**

In this webinar, some **innovative experiences of induction programmes** implemented at an **institutional level**, as well as good practices at giving support to prospective and new students will be introduced **by international experts from different continents** (UAB of Portugal, Open University of the Netherlands, Anadolu University of Turkey, UAPA of Dominican Republic and UNED). So, the institutional expertise at dealing with new students will be discussed and we will have the opportunity to know some **innovative actions** such as the awarded **"Studiecoach" programme of the Open University of the Netherlands**.