

Remote Learning and COVID-19

World Bank Support to Distance Learning in Higher Education

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What the World Bank does in Higher Education

1. **Prioritize higher education systems:** Accessing higher education remains the surest way out of poverty, and has many other societal and economic benefits. But higher education systems do not reach the poorest. We engage in a dialogue with governments around these issues around the world.
2. **Invest in higher education systems: The World Bank invests in low and middle income countries that do not have access to international capital.** Higher education investments represent about 25% of our total education portfolio, which is typically around \$20billion.
3. **Provide an evidence-based voice: The Bank leads analytical work.** We support data collection and impact evaluations to make sure that our projects reach the targets that are set out.

Six things we have learned during the last few months

1. **Inequality in connectivity:** Students (and faculty) do not have enough **connectivity** and **devices at home**. The digital divide remains strong, between countries and within countries. We need to create more
2. **Teaching:** Faculty were not ready to deploy content. While most faculty is active online, they had probably not taught in online mode before. They need 24/7 support.
3. **Learning:** Students are not experienced as online learners. While they may be quick to adapt, **students will complain**, and probably in larger numbers than they usually would. Use this to strengthen teaching.
4. **Mistakes:** In an emergency, we need to learn by doing, but **it has been difficult to correct our mistakes**. Pay attention to key issues: build in feedback, don't lock yourself into long-term contracts, protect students' data.
5. **Regulation:** The regulatory environment is not (yet) aligned to online learning. How is online learning regulated? Is it accredited? Is the telco market competitive? How are data being treated?
6. **Evidence:** There is no strong evidence base on how students learn in distance learning. Which services are key to learning? How far do they reach? How is data from distance learning secured and analyzed publicly?



External web site: [Remote Learning, EdTech & COVID-19 web page](https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/edutech/brief/edtech-covid-19)
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