

Advantages and Disadvantages of Blended and Hybrid Delivery Options

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***Blended delivery** combines scheduled face-to-face learning with planned online activities, while **hybrid delivery** generally allows participants to attend the same session either in person or remotely. Both modes have both advantages and disadvantages – but what both modes have in common is a higher level of flexibility than the traditional face to face (F2F) mode.*

Blended Delivery

Advantages of the blended mode include –

Flexible learning - participants can complete some activities at a time and place that *best suits them*.

Varied learning experiences - in-person discussion can be combined with videos, quizzes, forums and self-paced resources.

Efficient use of class time - foundational content can be covered online, leaving face-to-face sessions for practice, collaboration and feedback.

Improved access to resources - digital materials can be reviewed repeatedly and updated easily.

Supports learner independence - participants develop time-management, digital literacy and self-directed learning skills.

Disadvantages of the blended mode include –

Requires careful course design - online and face-to-face components must be clearly connected rather than operating as separate activities.

Technology barriers - unequal access to devices, reliable internet or digital skills can disadvantage some learners.

Higher preparation demands - educators may need additional time to create, manage and update online content.

Participation may vary - some learners may postpone or skip self-paced activities without clear expectations and support.

Reduced immediate interaction online - asynchronous tasks may not provide instant clarification or feedback.

Hybrid Delivery

Advantages of this mode include -

Greater attendance flexibility - participants can join in person or remotely when travel, health, work or caring responsibilities make attendance difficult.

Broader reach - organisations can include geographically dispersed learners, presenters and specialists.

Continuity of delivery - sessions can continue when some participants cannot be physically present.

Potential cost savings - remote attendance may reduce travel, accommodation and venue requirements.

Consistent session timing - all participants can engage with the same core content at the same time.

Disadvantages of this mode include -

Unequal participant experience - remote attendees may find it harder to contribute, network or receive attention than those in the room.

Greater facilitation complexity - the facilitator must manage two audiences; multiple communication channels; and different engagement needs – all simultaneously.

Technical risk - audio, video, connectivity or platform failures can disrupt the session.

Additional equipment and support - quality hybrid delivery may require microphones, cameras, displays, suitable rooms and technical assistance.

Harder group interaction - discussions and collaborative activities can become slower or less natural across locations.

Choosing the Most Suitable Option

Blended delivery is often most suitable when learners can attend scheduled face-to-face sessions and benefit from completing complementary online work between meetings.

Hybrid delivery is often preferable when participants need a choice of attendance mode for the same live session.

The decision should consider learner needs, accessibility, course outcomes, facilitator capability, available technology, budget and the importance of real-time interaction. In some contexts, combining both approaches may provide the greatest flexibility, but it also increases design and delivery complexity.

At the same time the HE provider needs to be cognisant of conditions and regulations outlined in the *Threshold Standards*, *National Code* and *ESOS Act*.

Also worth reading –

Articles

The implausible dream (2024) - [6113ad_f6e729eba5724f96a82be6265051f1ef.pdf](#)

The Big Five (5) Higher Education Challenges Ahead in 2025 and 2026 (2024) - [6113ad_c2c220487c4c4c0caae2bbbb2231766a.pdf](#)

Alternative Modes of Delivery (2025) - [6113ad_0caaeabce6234b4cbe41ea26073e5a6c.pdf](#)

Books

Exploring a New Era – Hybrid, Blended and Online Learning (2021)

- [Exploring a new era –Hybrid \(2021\) | musicum20](#)

Things Will Never be the Same – or Will They? (2023) - [Things Will Never be the Same – o \(2022\) | musicum20](#)

Virtually Yours (2025) - [GJW Consulting 2210-2} Vol 4 Virtually Yours Content PROOF 108813](#)

Emeritus Professor Greg Whateley is a long-term commentator on delivery modes within the higher education sector - [Emeritus Professor Greg Whateley | musicum20](#)