UQ2U Course guidelines

The Student Strategy white paper outlines the changing world that universities and students find themselves in. Our students need to be prepared for continuous learning over their lifetime and expect more from their education. They also face a world that will change dramatically throughout their working lives as artificial intelligence and other technologies impact on all corners of society. Our response is to evolve our offerings to include a signature UQ student experience to help better integrate with and prepare our students for this new reality.
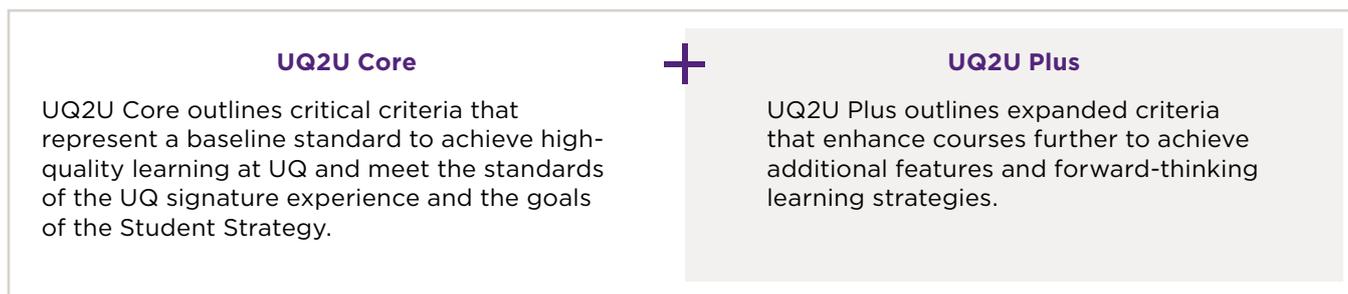
One of the initiatives in this journey is the UQ2U program which aims to redevelop UQ largest courses to deliver more flexibility and greater active learning experiences to our students.

To deliver the UQ2U new learning approach, we combine faculty-based subject matter expertise with ITaLI's learning innovation team in a collaborative project that focuses on student-centred experiences designed to:

- Enhance our pedagogies and learning spaces to encourage active and collaborative learning.

- Expand online and digitised delivery to provide students with flexibility to engage with learning in a way that suits their personal needs.

- Transform students into game-changing graduates through authentic assessments and improvement of critical skills for enhanced employability.

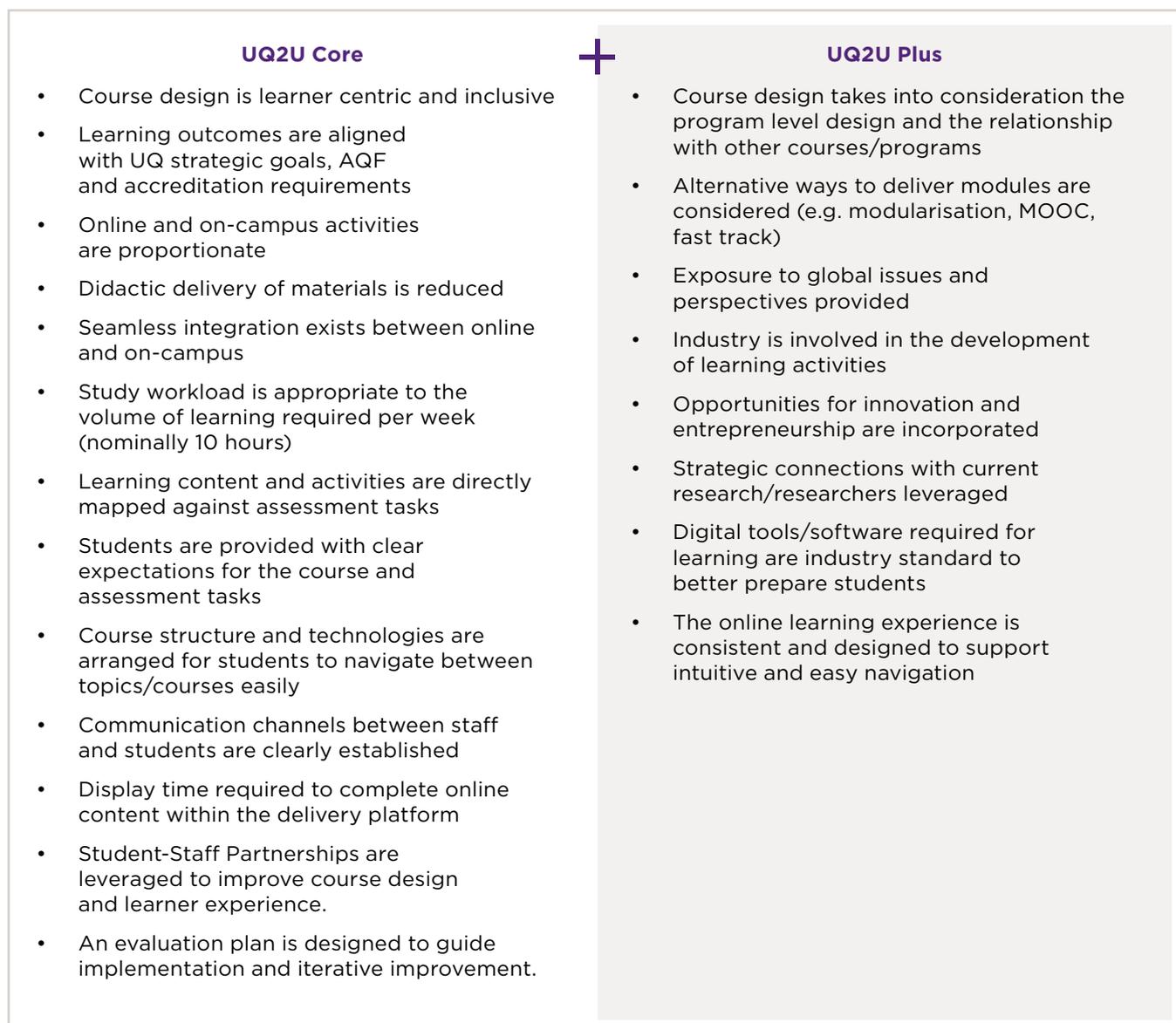- Strengthen partnerships between students, researchers, industry and alumni.

The UQ2U program are characterised by high-quality online and high-value on-campus active blended learning by following UQ2U course guidelines which incorporate best practice principles in the pedagogical design of learning.

Implementation of UQ2U can be considered at two levels—UQ2U Core and UQ2U Plus:

UQ2U Core

UQ2U Core outlines critical criteria that represent a baseline standard to achieve high-quality learning at UQ and meet the standards of the UQ signature experience and the goals of the Student Strategy.

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UQ2U Plus

UQ2U Plus outlines expanded criteria that enhance courses further to achieve additional features and forward-thinking learning strategies.

Many courses will already meet various criteria of UQ2U Core and/or UQ2U Plus. Undertaking a UQ2U project in collaboration with ITaLI provides an opportunity for course redesign--to build on existing strengths, enhance the excellence of courses and improve the learning experience and outcomes for students. While UQ2U is a program specifically aimed at large courses for maximum impact, all courses at UQ will benefit from the processes, resources and professional learning support that emanate from this project as we roll out the signature UQ experience.

"Whole of Course" Design

UQ2U Core

- Course design is learner centric and inclusive
- Learning outcomes are aligned with UQ strategic goals, AQF and accreditation requirements
- Online and on-campus activities are proportionate
- Didactic delivery of materials is reduced
- Seamless integration exists between online and on-campus
- Study workload is appropriate to the volume of learning required per week (nominally 10 hours)
- Learning content and activities are directly mapped against assessment tasks
- Students are provided with clear expectations for the course and assessment tasks
- Course structure and technologies are arranged for students to navigate between topics/courses easily
- Communication channels between staff and students are clearly established
- Display time required to complete online content within the delivery platform
- Student-Staff Partnerships are leveraged to improve course design and learner experience.
- An evaluation plan is designed to guide implementation and iterative improvement.

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UQ2U Plus

- Course design takes into consideration the program level design and the relationship with other courses/programs
- Alternative ways to deliver modules are considered (e.g. modularisation, MOOC, fast track)
- Exposure to global issues and perspectives provided
- Industry is involved in the development of learning activities
- Opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship are incorporated
- Strategic connections with current research/researchers leveraged
- Digital tools/software required for learning are industry standard to better prepare students
- The online learning experience is consistent and designed to support intuitive and easy navigation

Assessment for Learning

UQ2U Core

- Where possible, assessment tasks are authentic providing industry, application or community context
- There is a greater focus on formative assessment to promote richer feedback opportunities for students and academics
- Assessment tasks:
  - are scaffolded
  - have clear instructions
  - are effective in engaging students with course concepts
  - provide high-quality feedback
  - promote academic integrity

UQ2U Plus

- Enhanced assessment tasks are:
  - connected (e.g. outputs from one task relate to other tasks) and linked to overall program context
  - accompanied by contextualised rubrics (where relevant)
  - an opportunity for reflection/ self-regulated learning
- Give choice of topic, method, criteria, weighting or timing of assessments
- Provides students peer review and/or peer assessment opportunities

Active Learning

UQ2U Core

- Active on-campus sessions support learning through engagement/practice with students, for example, critical thinking exercises, peer learning, problem-based learning or group-led activities
- Active teaching sessions provide richer opportunities for students to receive feedback
- Academics engage students using expert-facilitation methods
- Online content actively engages learners in interactive and collaborative tasks
- Appropriate technology is used to support in-class collaboration

UQ2U Plus

- Work Integrated Learning (WIL), industry partnership and projects are included (where appropriate)
- Where possible, content and active learning is contextualised

Flexible Learning

UQ2U Core

- Essential knowledge is available online and is accessible anywhere, anytime for students
- Asynchronous formative assessments/ knowledge checks that inform students of their progress and provides data that can be used to support and guide learning

UQ2U Plus

- Schedule classes to improve flexibility and optimise time on-campus
- Identify courses that can be unbundled (modularisation)

Learning Technologies and Analytics

UQ2U Core

- Technologies and digital assets are appropriately selected for the required learning outcome
- Use learning analytics (e.g. staff dashboards) to provide timely feedback on learner progress and analyse learner engagement
- Assessments are submitted online (when practicable)

UQ2U Plus

- Use learner dashboards for self-guided learning and reflection, and, where desired, to benchmark their progress
- Online materials are responsive across devices and platforms

Rich Content

UQ2U Core

Course content development approach:

1. content curation (existing; UQ IP, creative commons, OER, etc.)
2. existing UQ licensed materials (e-books, media, etc.)
3. external purchases (textbooks, content acquisition)
4. bespoke development (video production, learning tools development)

to produce assets that have longevity and can be re-usable by academics, students and schools

- Reusable learning objects are developed (individual assets and/or whole modules) and are designed to be sustainable

UQ2U Plus

- Industry produced content
- Students in the course curate and co-create content during course delivery

Additional enabling resources:

- Support to students – via online content, mentoring, orientation, student services support
- Professional learning – blended course development, use of technology, best practice in blended delivery, expert facilitation
- Communities of practice between learning designers, academics, learning advisers