

Harper Adams Virtual Farm

Support

We are conscious that any technology is only as useful as its users are competent in applying it. We are running regular staff training workshops in the use of Moodle and other e-Learning tools and also offer 'drop-in' sessions for students.

There is also the opportunity to undertake an e-Learning project as part of the *Aspire* Development Fellowship award scheme. Some of these projects may then be used as examples of best practice to be disseminated amongst staff at Harper Adams University College.



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An example of an e-book development at HAUC

Aspire

Advancing Skills for Professionals
 in the Rural Economy

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Advancing Skills for Professionals in the Rural Economy



e-Learning at Harper Adams



Centre for Excellence in
 Teaching and Learning

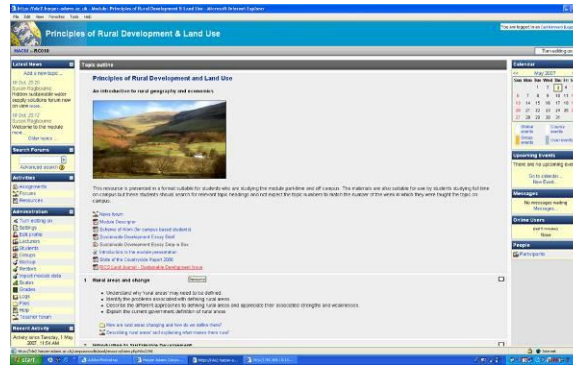
The future is here

The 21st century has been termed the 'Knowledge Age' highlighting the importance of education within a global economy.

For course provision in Higher Education this requires the implementation of modern teaching methods taking into account increased adaptability and flexibility of content delivery, 24/7 accessibility of teaching material and new methods of student and staff interaction outside formal teaching hours and campus presence.

With more flexible e-Learning resources available online, academics can now adapt the curriculum to their learners' needs and interests.

As we continue to embed e-Learning across the whole learning process, it will blend more easily with life and work, bridging the boundaries between formal and informal learning – that means e-Learning can come to the learner.



Screenshot from the Moodle Interface

Technology

e-Learning technologies are expected to provide the backbone for achieving these goals and the Internet and the World Wide Web in particular are the platform to allow personalised learning; mobile devices will play an increasing role in online learning.

Most Higher Education Institutions provide as main interface for accessing teaching material a so called Virtual Learning Environment (VLE); at Harper Adams University College we use Moodle as our VLE, through which relevant course material can be accessed or communication can be made between staff and students.

Current projects in e-learning

We are in the process of implementing new technologies which will enhance e-Learning at Harper-Adams, amongst others

- The use of an electronic voting system accompanying traditional lectures (as in 'Who wants to be a Millionaire')

- The introduction of an e-portfolio system allowing flexible Personal Development Planning (PDP) and work-based learning
- The evaluation and implementation of pod-casting for online delivery of key concepts in teaching
- The evaluation of Collaborative Videoconferencing tools for interactive group work

We are also collaborating with staff at Harper Adams on work-based distance learning provision as part of the project within the animal medicines industry and the MDS Postgraduate Certificate in Food and Fresh Produce Management Studies, for fresh produce businesses.

Another major undertaking is the creation of an online interactive data repository called the 'Virtual Farm' which will serve as a basis for Harper Adams students to access up-to-date data for their research projects.



Screenshot from an online lecture