



# Learner Independence

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# What is Learner Independence?

- Close to learner autonomy
- Confidence to ask for help or support
- Finding own way of learning
- Working with others
- Decoding institutions in practice
- Information literacy

# **Independent lifelong learners**

- 90% of adults undertake at least one major learning effort in a year
- The average adult spends nearly 10 hours per week on learning
- 80% of adult learning is independent of professional educators
- An adult interacts with 10-11 other people on average in any learning project



# Drivers for learner independence

- Graduate skills agenda
- Workforce development
- Modern educational theory
- Reducing teaching resource

Are these drivers mutually compatible?

# Some of the issues

- Transition from HE to workplace
- Independence implies individualisation
- Building confidence (self-efficacy) requires guidance
- Validating independent learning
- Social mediation of self-direction

# Evaluating learner independence

UK: Agree-Disagree

US: How often have you:

- Staff are good at explaining things
- Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions
- Staff have made the subject interesting
- Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers.)
- Feedback on my work has helped me clarify things I did not understand.
- Used an electronic medium (chat group, Internet, instant messaging, etc.) to discuss or complete an assignment