

Independent Learning – Comparing Student Perceptions with University Expectations

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Students as Independent Learners

- Perception of the term
- Expectations of an Independent Learner
- Where and why there is a difference

Challenges to the Independent Learner

- Engaging with Virtual Learning Environments
- Effective use of personal study time
- Taking ownership of learning

Engaging with VLEs

- Usage
 - As an individual
 - Working in a group situation
- Challenges
 - Learning objectives
 - Consistency
 - Practical & Technical issues

Effective use of personal study time

- Beyond timetabling issues
 - Making the choice
 - Assigning 'Personal Study' periods
 - The nature of university learning
- Learning on demand
 - Increased access to library and labs
 - More and quicker access to learning resources

Taking ownership of learning

- Traditional university engagement
 - Lectures
 - Attendance monitoring
- Advance issue of course notes
- The role of feedback
- Induction

The Students' Association view

- Support the views from Conference & Summit
 - Consistent use of Blackboard
 - Greater Library Access
 - More formative feedback
- Consult student representatives further
 - Block timetabling
 - Group work & Learning styles