

Our Centres spend so much time and effort on physical orientation sessions. Online orientation to your course is just as important. Best practice in online learning ensures time devoted to orientation and socialisation online at the beginning of the course. This could involve video introductions, face to face conferences, synchronous chat rooms or asynchronous discussion forums. Getting to know the other participants from the get go will facilitate a "network of learning" that will help facilitate follow up activities such as self and peer assessment and discussion forums. Remember also that if instructors are required to respond to students, make sure that an appropriate response time is made clear in advance to both students and teachers. Learners often assume that instructors will answer them straight away and get angry when they don't! Make sure that you state what the turnaround time will be for any online communication.