

As adult learners and their employers find more pressures put upon their time than ever, there has never been a greater need for flexible options for delivery of learning. Development of virtual learning environments (VLEs) with their rich mix of engaging delivery methods has led to a huge increase in 'blended' learning where face-to-face sessions are mixed with online delivery. Midlands training provider Real Time Education Limited is offering a blended approach to initial teacher training with the launch of a blended Award in Education and Training.

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Trainee teachers and trainers will use the *Moodle* platform to study online materials using video-based sessions from their tutor with interactive learning objects to gain the underpinning knowledge. They will then be directed to wider reading online and to breaking news via RSS and Twitter feeds. After this they will join with their peers coming together to use, analyse and discuss their learning using live chats, discussion forums, Wikis and collaborative group activities such as glossary creation. Learning is formatively assessed using all of the above methods as well as quizzes before learners upload their summative assignments and reflective journals for electronic marking before receiving electronic feedback from their tutor.

This blend allows learners to study in a flexible way, managing their own time with online support from their peers and tutors. Discussion forums and live group chats make sure that the group stays connected online, allowing them to engage in the dialogue they would enter into in a classroom session. When the online input is completed, the group will then come together for their face-to-face microteaching session. The reduction in timetabled, class input makes this delivery model a popular, affordable one for learners and employers both in terms of course fees and in spent time away from work. This brings the qualification within reach of students who may not have been able to study it in a conventional classroom setting. In addition, practitioners learn ways in which they can use online tools such as Twitter, RSS news feeds and discussion forums with their own learners as well as developing their own IT skills or learning new ones.

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ACTIVITIES

- Assignments
- Chats
- Forums
- Resources

Real Time Education offer the Award course and several other blended programmes to individuals and groups. Providers are able to lease hosted versions of Moodle-based courses for delivery by their own staff. The availability of hosted, branded courses allows providers access to a bespoke version of the Award course – or any other provision by arrangement – designed and tailored for them.

The company provide consultancy and training allowing organisations to set up or extend their own programmes. Existing learning resources such as PowerPoints can be integrated into online courses; practitioners can receive training in using Moodle for delivery and Articulate for learning object design.

Real Time Education – NOCN Blended AET

Home  NOCN Blended AET

 The Award in Education & Training

 News forum – all course news will be posted here by your tutor
 Communicate! Click here to chat online with your group

In a fiercely competitive market, blended provision is becoming ever more in demand; to find out more about these flexible delivery models of provision visit the website at www.realtimeeducation.co.uk.