



University
of Basel

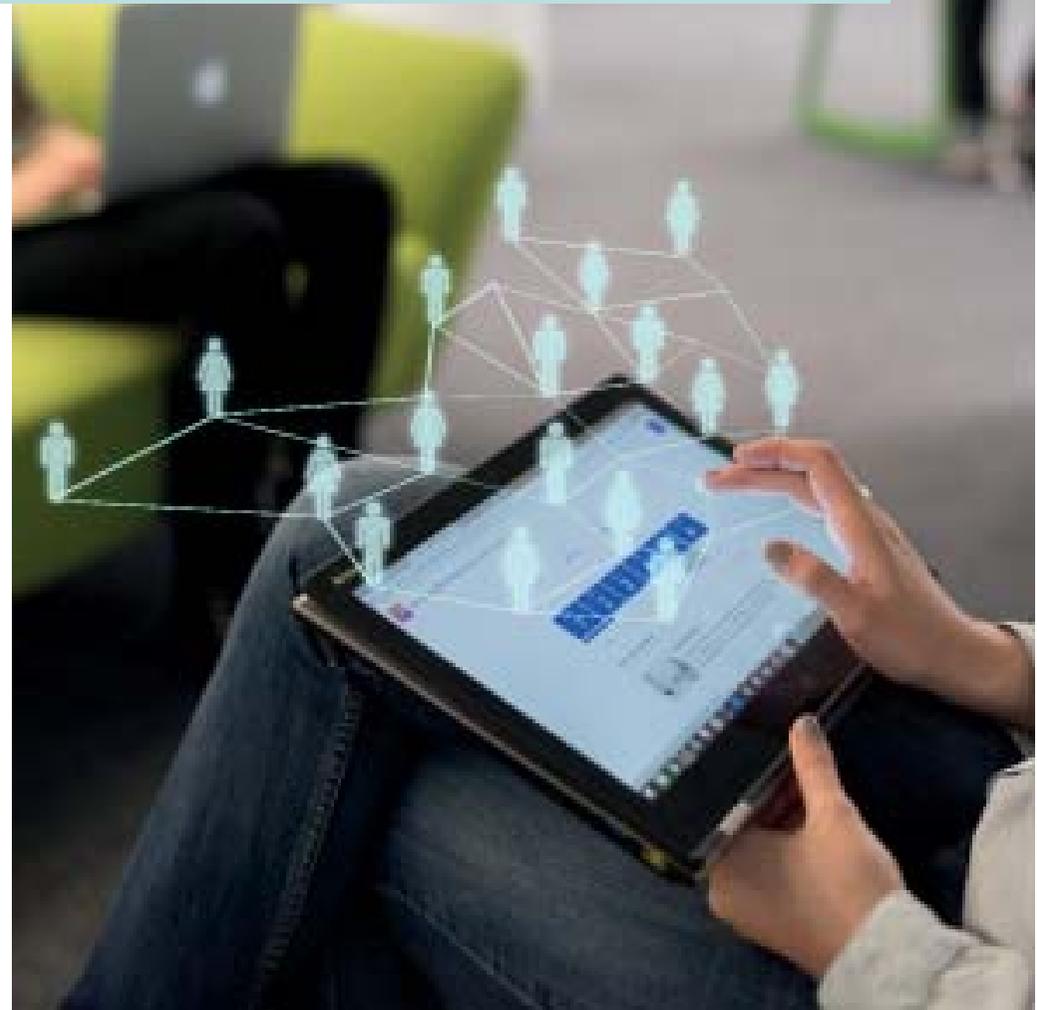
Online Courses

Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

**Educating
Talents**
since 1460.

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Online Courses

Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

An MOOC is a specific type of online course, which does not have any restrictions on participation and which commonly comprises of several thousand participants ('massive'), where anyone, irrespective of their location or educational background, is able to participate without any formal access restrictions ('open'), which is offered entirely via the Internet ('online') and which takes place within a defined time frame, has a curricular structure and for which learning support is provided ('course').

Upon successful completion, the online learners can acquire a certificate of participation. The creative leeway is huge and ranges between the objectives of imparting knowledge (so-called xMOOCs) and jointly developing knowledge (so-called cMOOCs).

Technical solutions

The University of Basel offers its open online courses on FutureLearn (www.futurelearn.com), a platform based in Great Britain, which is used by more than 100 internationally renowned universities and research institutions to distribute their open online courses.

Features

- Knowledge transfer using videos, audio recordings and articles
- Direct feedback or queries regarding the learning contents via comments
- Using 'Progress', 'To do' and 'Mark as complete' to make your own learning progress

- visible and to control it
- Reflection and exchange in discussions Feed of all comments and contributions to discussions via 'Activity'.
- Support of social learning and formation of groups by means of social media elements ('Reply', 'Like' and 'Follow').
- Formative and summative examination of the individual level of knowledge using quizzes and tests
- Practising and consolidation of the teaching material, as well as peer review through assignments.

Use in teaching

- Internationalisation: "Virtual mobility" enables all local students to benefit from a research-based education in an international environment.
- Flipped classroom: Knowledge transfer primarily takes place in virtual space, while the contents are consolidated, reflected upon, discussed and applied during in-class learning.
- Increased flexibility: Online courses facilitate diversity-oriented teaching and learning (keywords 'life-long learning', 'accessibility', 'mobile learning' etc.).
- Homogenisation: Supports the balancing of the level of knowledge

Please note

With open access to online courses, teaching no longer takes place in closed rooms and is visible "in the public eye". Teaching concept, contents and facilitation must bear comparison at an international level; accordingly, the teaching/learning materials must be produced in a professional manner. This requires a great initial expenditure, both in terms of personnel (course concept, preparation of contents, facilitation) and finances (media production); in the medium and long term, this may pay off at different levels. Professional support at a conceptual, creative, technical and didactic level is recommended at an early stage.