Edutools: Video-conferencing applications

Zoom – Webex: comparative overview

	Zoom	Webex
Internet page	https://unibas.zoom.us/	https://unibas.webex.com
Underlying Software	Zoom	Cisco Webex
Availability	Cross-platform	Cross-platform
Usability	High: intuitive interface Users should practice special functions such as breakout-rooms, polls and screen-sharing beforehand.	Medium: some practice is required to use this tool.
Usage scenario (examples)	Classical online video conference, for instance two-person meetings as well as meetings in small or large groups. Teaching, e.g. lectures, seminars and workshops; small to mid-size congresses.	Classical online video conference, for instance two-person meetings as well as meetings in small or large groups. Regular and irregular staff meetings, esp. of the administration, including board and committee meetings.
Functionalities		
Screen sharing	Available, including on mobile devices	Available, including on mobile devices
Annotation of shared screen	Yes, also by participants	Yes, also by participants
Interactive whiteboard	Available	Available
File sharing	Available	Available
Chat	Available, including advanced function such as private messages	Available, including advanced function such as private messages
Reactions	Rise hand and others	Rise hand and others
Breakout Rooms	Available	Available
Polls	Available	Available
Recording	Available (both video and audio only); easy to use	Available
User interface configuration	A few options are available: participants can be displayed individually or in tiles as a group; when a screen is shared, users can adjust the relative size of speaker and presentation; digital backgrounds are available.	Limited: participants can be displayed individually or in tiles as a group; simultaneous sharing of screen and video possible.
Virtual background possible	Yes, also background blur	Yes, also background blur

Roles	Organizer (host), alternative host, co-host, participant (registered or as guest)	Host, Co-host, presenter, participant
Maximum number of participants	Up to 300 participants. An extension to 500 participants is possible: this must be requested in advance at the IT Services of the University of Basel.	Up to 1000 participants
Log on for organizers	Uni-Account for https://unibas.zoom.us (SSO University of Basel)	Uni account
Access options for participants	Access via link. Meetings can be password-protected (recommended). The password can be integrated in the URL for one-click access. Users with the link and the password can participate anonymously and without registration. With the "Waiting Room" function, organizers can let in participants individually.	Access via link. Organizers can protect the conference with a password (recommended). With the "lobby" function, organizers can let in participants individually.
Video quality	High quality	Good quality
Installation	Windows, Mac, GNU/Linux: a desktop program can be installed for higher quality and more functionalities. iOS, Android: an app is available Zoom can also run in a web browser, with no installation required.	Windows, Mac, GNU/Linux: a desktop program can be installed. iOS, Android: an app is available Integration with Outlook and Google Calendar
Requirements	Application, mobile app or browser. Microphone; webcam (optional) A headset can improve sound quality.	Application, mobile app or browser. Microphone; webcam (optional) A headset can improve sound quality.
Access through other devices	Users can participate via telephone.	Users can participate via telephone.
Videoconferencing systems	Supported	Supported
Virtual meeting rooms	Permanent personal meeting room, which can be protected with a password. Scheduling of non-recurring or recurring meetings. Rooms for instant meetings.	Permanent personal meeting room Scheduling of non-recurring or recurring meetings. Meeting rooms can be protected with a password.
Security and privacy	Acceptable, but not absolutely guaranteed: the data is channeled to servers in EU countries. End-to-end encryption can be chosen as an option; in this case, some functionalities are no longer available.	Secure: the meetings are hosted on the servers of the University of Basel.
Help and support	Guidelines: https://tales.nmc.unibas.ch/en/online-lehrveranstaltungen-17/lehrveranstaltungen-im-virtuellen-lehrraum-durchfuhren-100/zoom-installieren-605 Support at the University of Basel: support-its@unibas.ch Online help: https://support.zoom.us/hc/	Guidelines: https://tales.nmc.unibas.ch/en/webex-anleitung-zur-installation-und-verwendung-19/ Support at the University of Basel: support-its@unibas.ch Support: https://support.webex.com/support/manage-ticket.html