

Tips for Choosing Alternative Assessment Methods For COVID-19 Coronavirus Contingency Planning

Our students can learn through many different but equitable assessment methods. An alternative assessment should not be seen as a lesser form of assessment, but just a different assessment to achieve the same learning outcomes. Some of the following ideas are worth considering in the design of alternative assessment methods to ensure the quality and equity of the assessment:

- Your starting point is the learning outcomes for the modules, the alternative assessment should align with these outcomes.
- Ensure students have sufficient skills to demonstrate their learning. They should have an opportunity, where possible, to trial any unfamiliar method, without grading.
- Students should be informed of the changes to assessments methods and the impact on any assessment weightings with clear comprehensive instructions about the assessment requirements and number of attempts permitted.
- The alternative assessment should require an equivalent effort of the student to the current assessment so review student effort and hours on the assessment task, length of time or word count.
- Some students for a variety of reasons may find alternative assessments bring new challenges and student will need to self-identify so that individual needs can be reviewed.
- When assessing any student work there will need to be consideration of whether the alternative assessment is in a familiar format.
- Existing assessment criteria/rubrics are likely to need to be adapted to align with the alternative assessment and should be provided for students as early as possible as well as markers and moderators.
- Ensure students are aware of submission processes for all assessments.

This resource has been adapted by LEaD from a similar resource which was compiled by Prof Geraldine O'Neill, UCD, who led the National Forum Enhancement Theme 2016-18, focused on Assessment Of/For/As Learning. The resource is adapted from UCD's Guidance for Designing Alternative Assessment Methods. The 10 Points to Consider in Choosing Alternative Assessment Methods for the Online Environment is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. www.teachingandlearning.ie .