

Introduction to Assistive Technology



OVERVIEW

| | |
|--|----------|
| WELCOME | 2 |
| AIM OF THE COURSE | 2 |
| LEARNING OUTCOMES OF COURSE | 2 |
| COURSE TOPICS | 3 |
| DURATION | 4 |
| ONLINE DELIVERY OF COURSE | 4 |
| INTERACTING WITH TUTORS AND PEERS | 4 |
| COURSE MAP | 5 |
| SUPPORT | 7 |
| AWARD (TBC) | 8 |
| READY TO START? | 8 |

Introduction to Assistive Technology

WELCOME

Welcome to the short Course, "*Introduction to Assistive Technologies*".

This Course is a joint initiative of the Commonwealth of Learning (Canada) and Diversity and Ability (United Kingdom).

AIM OF THE COURSE

In this 6-week course, you will be introduced to free accessible assistive technology. It will equip you with the skills to support disabled people to use enabling technologies to aid their learning or working. The course will give an understanding of your country's journey so far to Disability inclusion and equality and help you establish your role in reinforcing this.

LEARNING OUTCOMES OF COURSE

By the end of the course, you will be expected to be able to:

1. Have a pronounced understanding of Free and Accessible Assistive Technologies
2. Identify effective Assistive Technology which lend themselves in different ways to various disabilities/learning differences
3. Understand which Assistive Technology may support individual barriers in preparation for Needs Assessments

Introduction to Assistive Technology

COURSE TOPICS

This 6 week course will cover the following topics:

| Topic | Sub-topics |
|---|--|
| Week 1: Introduction to the Course | a. Aspirations, Impacts & Why this matters b. Models of Disability c. Countrywide Journey d. Disability Accords e. Ethics and Safeguarding of the Work |
| Week 2: Introduction to Assistive Technology | a. What is Assistive Technology? b. Group Research Activity c. Case Study Activity |
| Week 3: Assistive Technology for barriers to reading | a. NVDA b. Robobrace c. Microsoft Lens d. Natural Reader e. Google Chrome Reader View f. iOS Spoken Content (Safari Reader View) g. Talk FREE |
| Week 4: Assistive Technology for barriers to writing | a. Built in iOS Dictation b. Built in Windows Dictation c. Microsoft Word Tools d. Google Docs Voice Typing e. Grammarly f. Xmind |
| Week 5: Assistive Technology for barriers to communication and removing digital access barriers | a. MS Outlook b. Mobile Ears c. Live Transcribe d. MindShift e. SeeingAI f. Find g. Action Blocks |

Introduction to Assistive Technology

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Week 6:</p> <p>Assistive Technologies for barriers to organisation and summary of the course</p> | <p>a. Trello</p> <p>b. Google Calendar</p> <p>c. OneNote</p> <p>d. SeeingAI</p> <p>e. Google Drive</p> <p>f. Google Keep</p> <p>g. Zotero (Extra tool)</p> <p>h. Next steps and preparing for course 2</p> |
|--|--|

DURATION

The course is spread over 6 weeks and you will be expected to devote a minimum of 3 to 4 hours per week to go over the online content, watch the videos, read the notes and readings and participate in chats and forum discussions as scheduled.

ONLINE DELIVERY OF COURSE

This course will be delivered online: this would mean that you will not have face to face sessions. All content (notes, videos, readings) will be online.

The content has been developed by D&A (Diversity and Ability, UK) and is hosted on the moodle. <https://cfltutorial.moodle.school/login/?lang=en>

You will be guided through the process of enrolling in the online course.

INTERACTING WITH TUTORS AND PEERS

- **Forums on Moodle**

There will be 1 central course forum that will be updated each week with different discussion topics. The forum discussions provide opportunities to share your thoughts, ask questions and have a conversation with your peers. These forums are to encourage deeper exploration of the topic which you may want to include in the Reflective Practice Log. (Sharing on the forum is optional)

- **Live Meetings through ZOOM**

Two ZOOM meetings will be held where you will be able to interact with your tutor/s and peers.

We invite you to download the software in the meantime either on your Mobile Phone or your computer so that you are ready when the course is launched.

Introduction to Assistive Technology

The two zoom sessions are scheduled for:

1. **30th November 2021** (details to follow)
2. **11th January 2022** (details to follow)

The session links are also available on the relevant weekly moodle page.

COURSE MAP

The Course Map is your roadmap through the course. It tells you in detail what you should be doing each week. Make sure you stick to this Course Map as much as possible so that you do not lag behind.

| Week | Topic | Tasks/Assignments |
|-----------|---|--|
| 1. | Topic 1 Introduction to the Course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Forum Discussion: Introduce yourself (what you do, years of experience, why you joined this course, etc) → Reflective Portfolio: Work on your weekly Reflective Practice Log and the activities set out in this document using the “Guidelines for Reflective Portfolio” → Assignment 1: Write a letter of between 250-500 words/ or record a video/ or create a mindmap addressed to the Minister for Education and the Minister of Employment, from the perspective of a disabled person, highlighting the impact of the Disability Accords the country has signed on daily living, education, and workplace. |
| 2. | Topic 2 Introduction to Assistive Technology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Reflective Portfolio: Work on your weekly Reflective Practice Log and the activities set out in this document using the “Guidelines for Reflective Portfolio” |

Introduction to Assistive Technology

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| 3. | Topic 3 Assistive Technology for barriers to reading | → Reflective Portfolio: Work on your weekly Reflective Practice Log and the activities set out in this document using the “Guidelines for Reflective Portfolio” |
| 4. | Topic 4 Assistive Technology for barriers to writing | → Reflective Portfolio: Work on your weekly Reflective Practice Log and the activities set out in this document using the “Guidelines for Reflective Portfolio” |
| 5. | Topic 5 Assistive Technology for barriers to communication and removing digital access barriers | → Reflective Portfolio: Work on your weekly Reflective Practice Log and the activities set out in this document using the “Guidelines for Reflective Portfolio” |
| | Topic 6 Assistive Technologies for barriers to organisation and summary of the course | → Reflective Portfolio: Work on your weekly Reflective Practice Log and the activities set out in this document using the “Guidelines for Reflective Portfolio” → Assignment 2: Assistive Technology Quiz |

ASSESSMENTS:

The course will be assessed through the following assessments:

- **Reflective Portfolio:** Documenting learning from the 6 weeks of the course. Guidelines will be provided.
- **Assignment 1:** Either a Letter or a Mindmap or Video to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Disabilities.
- **Assignment 2:** Assistive Technology Quiz

Introduction to Assistive Technology

SUPPORT

- **Academic Support**

Throughout the 6 weeks, an instructor will assist you each week by:

1. Ensuring that you are keeping pace with the content of the course;
2. Answering queries that you might have while going over the online content, the videos and readings;
3. Guiding you through activities and assignments, if applicable;
4. Participating in chats where you will be interacting with your peers as well.

- **Technical Support/ Guidance**

You will also be provided with technical support should you encounter any difficulty logging in to the course.

READY TO START?

We hope that this course will be enriching and useful to you! So let's get started!