

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Over time Cambridge Flexible Learning [CFL] has experienced a range of enquiries regarding how its courses work. Please see below:

Distance, Open and e-Learning

What is open learning?

Open Learning [OL] is a form of learning that does not necessitate time spent in a 'closed' institution with physical lecture theatres and classrooms etc.

This 'closed' learning system is what can be termed as the traditional "bricks and mortar approach" and is associated with Educational Institutions. 'Closed' learning tends to be very structured in time and format with set timetables typically made up of formal lectures, seminars and tutorials.

Normally OL operates by providing a means of communication between the learner and provider across geographical distances. The revolutionary advances in e-/digital technology makes this interactive process even more effective within Virtual Learning Environments [VLEs].

OL also has the capability of providing opportunities for face-to-face inputs/sessions; this combination of Open Learning and face-to-face sessions is often referred to as 'Blended-Learning'.

What is e-learning?

First of all let us deal with learning. We see learning as a process, through which new knowledge and skills are acquired that can result in changes in attitudes and practices. So learning is basically a form of behavioural modification.

The E- approach to learning can cover the following:

1. A digital analysis of learning needs and styles.
2. The design and development of digital programmes.
3. The delivery or implementation of digital programmes.
4. An assessment or evaluation of the outputs by digital methods.

We utilise elements of the four approaches listed above via our learning platform, a virtual learning environment [VLE] that acts as an interactive mechanism between CFL and its learners.

Why bother doing OL?

"Brick and mortar" institutions by necessity impose rigid constraints on course duration, timing and attendance.

OL, particularly by e-Learning is:

- Flexible.
- Self-pacing.



CAMBRIDGE
FLEXIBLE LEARNING



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- A facilitator of career development with less disruption to earnings and costly full time education.
- Less expensive than traditional “bricks and mortar” learning.
- More directed in its scope and approach and less time-consuming than traditional methods of learning.

What are the drawbacks of OL? – can they be overcome?

- All learning involves some degree of sacrifice in terms of: time, energy and money either spent and/or foregone through loss of opportunities to earn. So OL is no different in terms of some level of sacrifice but time, energy and money spent should be less than in traditional learning.
 - Some learners love group-work – others detest it. Team work and soft skills can be developed through our face-to-face skill workshops.
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