E-Learning for Lifelong Learning
United Kingdom

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- A federal University with 19 Colleges and 10 smaller research institutes
- University founded in 1836 - Over 75,000 students in London
- Experienced distance learning providers but it is not ‘open’ learning as it is funding self sufficient
- The International Programmes System founded in 1858 - 50,000 students worldwide
- One of the UK’s leading universities
There are 4 main regional / country governments
1. England
2. Wales
3. Scotland
4. Northern Ireland

The British government is fundamentally the English government but funding for subjects such as education fall under the regional government and then local government.
Compulsory Education in the UK

- There are 9,691,000 children currently studying in school.
- An academic year runs from September – July with education is compulsory between 4 – 16.
- Truancy during these years can result in prosecution of the parents. Explained absences are fined.
- From September 2011, students can not leave school at 16 without a destination – either employment, alternate education or apprenticeships.
- Most education is state provided or funded.
- The focus has shifted from predominantly academic subjects to a mix of academic and vocational.
Higher and Adult Education

- Higher education is undergoing massive change
- There are approximately 2.5 million students in HE.
- The number of women has increased from 205,000 to 1.4 million in the last 40 years
- Another 2.9 million adults are studying towards a qualification, with 1.2 million of these over 40.
- Adult learning has been funded under two major learning providers – the Open University and Learndirect.
## Curriculum stages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age on 31/08</th>
<th>Year Name</th>
<th>Curriculum Stage</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Nursery</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>Nursery School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Nursery</td>
<td>Key Stage 1</td>
<td>Infant School</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Key Stage 2</td>
<td>Primary School</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
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<td>Junior School</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Key Stage 3</td>
<td>Secondary school</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>GCSE</td>
<td>Secondary School with sixth form</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>A &amp; AS Level</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>Vocational studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>Bachelor level degree</td>
<td>University</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>College / sixth form</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Year 13</td>
<td>PhD Degree</td>
<td>University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Master level degree</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td>University</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td>PhD Degree</td>
<td>University</td>
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<td>24</td>
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Defining Lifelong Learning

- English parliament definition ‘[Lifelong learning is] an important part of government policy. Informal learning is seen as as one way to remove barriers and widen participation’ 2000

- Scottish Executive ‘Lifelong learning covers the whole range of learning. That includes formal and informal learning and workplace learning. It also includes the skills, knowledge, attitudes and behaviors that people acquire in their day-to-day attitude’ 2011

- Welsh Assembly ‘’Learning for life’ was fundamental to the achievement of social justice, ensuring economic productivity and meeting the challenges of new technology, and the desire to ensure the best possible environment to encourage learning at all stages of people’s lives’ 2010
Definition of E-learning

- Provided by Learndirect (a UK government organisation set up by the University for Industry); ‘E-learning simply means that the courses will be accessible on your computer if you have an internet connection. With our flexible online courses it’s easy to fit learning into your life. You access your courses at any time that is convenient for you and do as little or as much as you like’

- The government website, Directgov, states ‘e-learning makes use of information and learning technology to provide innovative ways to learn’.
JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee) is UK colleges and universities uniting to seek innovation into Information and Communication technology. Currently they have 10 active programmes such as; Course management: Specification, validation and description and Cross Institution Use of e-learning to support life long learning

iUniversity, Moodle, Blackboard and other online study environments are being developed but mainly in isolation at the University level
Open University teaches post compulsory level education through ‘supported distance learning’.

They have developed a user driven survey to help students select the right course at the right level with a realistic chance of success. Through a series of very simple questions, they have improved the progression of students and their chance to succeed.
The Centre for Financial and Management Studies teaches post graduate international distance learners. They had made their enrolment and induction process paper less. The induction doesn’t seek to duplicate the on campus experience but is tailored to the profile of the students and
In 2010, the United Kingdom changed governing party, following 18 months of recession.

Under the new government funding for education has been cut. Most cuts will start in the 2012/13 academic year.

Some universities will lose 100% of funding for tuition. All will be affected by these cuts.

Open University lost £90 million in government funding (from £130 million previously).

University for Industry will need to find alternate funding to continue.

Learndirect will shut many regional centres.

Most companies are facing austerity measures and will no longer be able to afford training budgets.

As the front of the new ASEM magazine show – the UK needs a new education system!
Problems with the UK as an example

November 2010

November 2011
Don’t let your government get into debt!

Produce documentation on agreed terms for e-learning and lifelong learning and their relationship that can be used as a global standard including the universal benefits of both, which is suitable for non-academic readers.

Discuss ways to ‘brand’ these definitions or terms and determine target areas for this brand.

Create a table of international educational equivalencies for easy reference and translation for use within e-ASEM.

Create a simplified list of the best e-learning case studies from those provided through all the white papers for all levels and throughout the learning process.

Decide on an area of specialisation for e-ASEM members to concentrate their attention.
Further recommendations

- Gather statistical information about this area
- Create an international pamphlet combining the international information on the agreed specialisation with ‘best practice’ / recommendations on standardising the area
- Choose a country to champion the decisions of the group and use the developed paper as a framework for implementation