FACULTY OF ARTS

Adelaide Summer Research Scholarship 2020-2021

How is Online Learning Engagement Affected by Social Distancing Measures?

Supervisors: Dr Walter Barbieri and Associate Professor Edward Palmer

School of Education

This project will involve the analysis of School of Education courses to examine the effectiveness of online delivery, tasks and assessments. You will examine the variety of online delivery methods in 50 unique courses over a period of 6 weeks and report on the variety, perceived quality and engagement with various online aspects of those courses. You will also have access to learning analytics from the course to analyse. The online courses will be compared and contrasted against theoretical frameworks for good practice in online learning.

The overall goal of the project is to help improve learning outcomes for students by ensuring the best implementation of online methods is clearly understood. We anticipate a publication in a high-quality journal such as Computers and Education as an outcome with the student as co-author.

Research Tasks

- Research the literature on online learning
- Analyse courses to investigate how online approaches are used in them, classifying and comparing approaches.
- Analyse learning analytics from course (these will be provided) to look for patterns related to grades and the online methodologies used. Compare these with equivalent previous years courses and identify any change in behaviour from students and any changes in design.
- Prepare a draft paper for submission to a journal

Whilst this is an education focussed project, we welcome applications from all students.

The student will gain the following research skills and experience;

- Publication in high-quality journal
- co-publication with Supervisors
- Application of quantitative methods
- An understanding of good online design and implementation

- Hone basic research skills and paper writing.