COVID-19 Pandemic and its Impact on Educational Practices

This survey aims to investigate higher education students' practices attending conventional programs of study during the distance education period following higher education institutions' lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It also aims to study students' views and perceptions regarding the effectiveness of the process followed, and to compile suggestions for improvement.

Your responses to this survey are extremely valuable contributions to our research, and your effort and time spent are sincerely appreciated. The survey should take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

The survey is anonymous. No identifying information such as name, date of birth, or affiliation are requested. However, survey respondents can optionally enter into a draw, where one student will win a gift voucher worth 200 Euros from Bionic, and two others gift vouchers worth 100 Euros each from the same company. If you wish to participate in the draw, please provide your contact details in the relevant question you will find at the end of the survey.

All your responses will remain strictly confidential.The collected data will be used solely for the purpose of this research.

By choosing to continue with the completion of the questionnaire, you declare that you understand the purpose of this research and that you consent to your participation in this survey.

Thank you for taking the time to share with us your views and experiences regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

For any questions/ clarifications or further information in regards to this research please contact the Education and Culture Committee (Parallel Parliament): eccpp@onek.org.cy
* Required

Demographics

Please answer the following questions:

1. Please state your gender *

    Mark only one oval.

    ⬭ Male

    ⬭ Female

    ⬭ Other

2. Please indicate your age group *

    Mark only one oval.

    ⬭ Under 21 years old

    ⬭ 21-24

    ⬭ 25-29

    ⬭ 30-39

    ⬭ 40-49

    ⬭ 50-59

    ⬭ 60+

3. Do you live with anyone else? *

    Mark only one oval.

    ⬭ Yes, parent(s)

    ⬭ Yes, roommate(s)

    ⬭ Yes, partner/husband/wife

    ⬭ No

4. Do you live with children? *

Mark only one oval.

⚪ Yes, my children and/or my partner's

⚪ No

5. What is your occupational status? *

Mark only one oval.

⚪ Full time

⚪ Part time

⚪ I do not currently work

6. Please indicate your status as a student *

Mark only one oval.

⚪ Full time

⚪ Part time

7.   Please indicate the field of your program of study *

Mark only one oval.

◯ Education

◯ Arts

◯ Humanities

◯ Languages

◯ Social and behavioural science

◯ Journalism and information

◯ Business and administration

◯ Law

◯ Biological and related sciences

◯ Environment

◯ Mathematics and statistics

◯ Information and communication technologies (ICTs)

◯ Physical sciences

◯ Engineering and engineering trades

◯ Manufacturing and processing

◯ Architecture and construction

◯ Agriculture, forestry and fishery

◯ Veterinary

◯ Health

◯ Welfare

◯ Personal services

◯ Hygiene and occupational health services

◯ Security services

◯ Transport services

◯ Other:

8. I am studying at a: *

Mark only one oval.

     ◯ Public university

     ◯ Private university

     ◯ Public tertiary non-university institution

     ◯ Private tertiary non-university institution

9. Which of the following describe your studies' level? *

Mark only one oval.

     ◯ Undegraduate student

     ◯ Graduate student

     ◯ Professional student

     ◯ Other

10. How much space do you have available at home to study? *

Mark only one oval.

     ◯ I have a lot of rooms at home that I can use as an improvised classroom or an office

     ◯ I have one room at home that I use exclusively for study purposes

     ◯ I have one room or part of a room that I use for studying, and is also used for other purposes, such as sleeping, cooking or watching TV

     ◯ My house is very small or we are a big family so I don't have a dedicated study area. In order to be able to study, I move around all day long from one place to another

Technology background and level of use in daily life and studies prior the interruption of face-to-face teaching due to COVID-19

11. Which of the following statements do you think best describes your attitude towards the use of new internet technologies in your daily life? *

Mark only one oval.

    ( ) I do not like new technologies and I use them when i have to

    ( ) I am usually one of the last in my circle to use a new technology

    ( ) I usually decide to use a new technological tool when most people I know of are already using it

    ( ) I am cautious towards new technologies and only use them when necessary

    ( ) I like new technologies and I use them before most people in my circle do

    ( ) I love new technologies and I am always among the first to experiment with and use new technologies

12. How would you describe your level of familiarity with technology? *

Mark only one oval.

    ( ) Beginner

    ( ) Intermediate

    ( ) Advanced

    ( ) Expert

13. Do you have Internet access at home? *

Mark only one oval.

    ( ) Yes

    ( ) No

14. Do you have continuous access to the Internet via smartphone, tablet or any other device? *

Mark only one oval.

◯ Yes

◯ No

15. Please indicate which of the following devices you have access to at home and whether they are for your own use only or if you share them with other members of your family. *

Mark only one oval per row.

	It is used only by me	I share it with other members of my family	I have access to it but it belongs to other members of my family	We don't have one at home
PC/Laptop	◯	◯	◯	◯
Tablet	◯	◯	◯	◯
Smartphone	◯	◯	◯	◯

16. Please indicate how often you used each of the following technologies/technological tools either personally or for your studies before the COVID-19 lockdown. *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Email	○	○	○	○	○
Laptops/PCs	○	○	○	○	○
Smartphones	○	○	○	○	○
Tablets	○	○	○	○	○
E-books/E-readers (e.g. Kindle, Nook)	○	○	○	○	○
E-portfolios	○	○	○	○	○
Cloud and file sharing platforms (e.g. Dropbox, Google Drive, Skydrive)	○	○	○	○	○
Social Media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram,Twitter)	○	○	○	○	○
Instant Messaging (e.g. Messenger, Viber)	○	○	○	○	○
Online forums, bulletin boards	○	○	○	○	○
Media sharing sites (e.g., YouTube, Vimeo, Picasa, Flickr, iTunes U)	○	○	○	○	○
Teleconferencing, online conferencing (e.g. Skype, Blackboard, Adobe Connect, Google Hangouts/Google Chat)	○	○	○	○	○
Communication and collaboration tools (e.g. blogs, wikis, Google Docs, Microsoft Office Live)	○	○	○	○	○
Multimedia editing software (e.g. Movie Maker, iMovie, Final Cut, Premiere, Flash)	○	○	○	○	○

Online questionnaire (e.g. SurveyMonkey, Google Forms)	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses)	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Simulations, gaming, or virtual worlds	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Supportive Technology (e.g. screen magnifier, voice amplification, remote monitoring)	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

17. To what extent was technology integrated into your studies prior to the COVID-19 lockdown? *

Mark only one oval.

◯ I had no use for technology in my studies

◯ Technology was optional in my studies

◯ Technology was considered as a useful tool and I was encouraged by my professors to use it

◯ Technology was essential to success in my studies. It was fully integrated into courses.

18. Please indicate how often you were asked to incorporate/ use the following technologies and technological tools in your studies prior to the COVID-19 lockdown. *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
PowerPoint Presentations	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Lectures / seminars that use screenshots and narrative presentations	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Video (in-class or streaming)	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Lecture capture (video recorded)	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Podcasts/audio files	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Simulations, gaming, or virtual worlds	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Electronic voting systems/ polling or other means, to collect students' responses in real time	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Educational software designed for teaching a specific subject	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
General purpose software (e.g. iMovie, Audacity etc.)	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Open-source (free) instructional material to augment content	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Standardized assessment tools for measuring students' performance	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
eTextbooks and associated online content	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) to encourage online participation or interaction outside the classroom	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Asynchronous discussion forums	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

Synchronous Chats	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Software for students to record and/or edit videos	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Cloud and file sharing platforms (e.g. Dropbox, Google Drive, Skydrive)	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Special software for better accessibility (e.g. screen magnifier, screen reader, symbol usage etc.)	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Instant messaging (e.g. Messenger, Viber)	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Break out rooms (e.g. Zoom)	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Online/electronic quizzes	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Online homework or virtual labs	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

Prior experience in distance education

19. Prior to the interruption of face-to-face instruction due to COVID-19, had you ever attended distance learning programs/courses (e.g. webinars, online workshops, MOOCs)? *

Mark only one oval.

◯ Yes

◯ No

20. How prepared do you think you were at the beginning of the at-distance phase following the COVID-19 lockdown, to attend courses delivered remotely? *

    Mark only one oval.

    ○ Not at all

    ○ Slightly prepared

    ○ Moderately prepared

    ○ Very well prepared

Use of technology after the start of courses offered at-distance due to COVID-19 lockdown.

21. Indicate whether, after the decision to attend courses at-distance due to COVID-19, your affiliated institution provided you with the following equipment to facilitate and/or enhance your online teaching. *

    Mark only one oval per row.

	Yes	No	It was offered but I already had my own	N/A
PC/Laptop	○	○	○	○
Webcam	○	○	○	○
Tablet	○	○	○	○
Digitizer (e.g. digital pen, audio digitizer, digital camera)	○	○	○	○
Other	○	○	○	○

22. How often have you used the following platforms during the COVID-19 distance learning period? *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Always (main platform)	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Moodle	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
MS Teams	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
Google Classrooms	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
Blackboard	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
Other...	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭

23. How easy was it for you to get on the platform used for distance learning? *

Mark only one oval.

- ⬭ Very easy (I didn't face any difficulties)
- ⬭ Easy (I had some minor issues but I resolved them easliy)
- ⬭ Difficult (I had some issues and it took me a long time to resolve them)
- ⬭ Very Difficult (I had some major issues and it took me a very long time to resolve them)

24. How often have you used the following tools to communicate with your instructors and/or classmates during the COVID-19 period? *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Always (main platform)	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Zoom	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Webex	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Google Hangouts Meet	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Jitsi	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Skype	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
MS Teams	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Other	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

25. During the distance learning period, you attended synchronous online sessions, where you needed to use camera and microphone. During these sessions... *

Mark only one oval.

◯ I preferred to have the camera off and use only the microphone

◯ I had both (camera and microphone) on

◯ I had both (camera and microphone) off

◯ Other: _____

26. Please indicate how often the following technologies/technological tools were used in your at-distance courses during the COVID-19 lockdown. *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
PowerPoint Presentations	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Lectures / seminars that use screenshots and narrative presentations	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Video (streaming)	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Lecture capture	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Podcasts/audio files	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Simulations, gaming, or virtual worlds	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Electronic voting systems/ polling or other means, to collect students' responses in real time	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Educational software designed for teaching a specific subject	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
General purpose software (e.g. iMovie, Audacity etc.)	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Open-source (free) instructional material to augment content	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Standardized assessment tools for measuring students' performance	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
eTextbooks and associated online content	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) to encourage online participation or interaction outside the classroom	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Asynchronous discussion forums	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Synchronous Chats					
Software for students to record and/or edit videos	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Cloud and file sharing platforms (e.g. Dropbox, Google Drive, Skydrive)	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Special software for better accessibility (e.g. screen magnifier, screen reader, symbol usage etc.)	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Instant messaging (e.g. Messenger, Viber)	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Break out rooms (e.g. Zoom)	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Online/electronic quizzes	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Online homework or virtual labs	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

27.   During the synchronous online sessions, it was... *

Mark only one oval.

◯ easier for me to participate in the lesson than in the face-to-face classroom

◯ just as easy for me to participate in the lesson as in the face-to-face classroom

◯ more difficult for me to participate in the lesson than in the face-to-face classroom

28. How regularly did you attend the courses offered at-distance due to COVID-19? *

Mark only one oval.

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always

29. Given your recent experience, indicate which of the following were difficult for you to attend at-distance. *

Check all that apply.

- Lectures
- Practice
- Programming labs
- Engineering labs
- Team work
- Evaluation

30. To what extent were the following technological issues a challenge for you during the transition to attend courses at-distance? *

Mark only one oval per row.

	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To a small extent	It was not a challenge
Instructors' discomfort or lack of familiarity with the required technologies or applications	◯	◯	◯	◯
My own discomfort or lack of familiarity with the required technologies or applications	◯	◯	◯	◯
My limited access to reliable software/communication tools (e.g. Teams, Zoom, Skype, Google)	◯	◯	◯	◯
My limited access to a reliable internet connection	◯	◯	◯	◯
My limited access to a reliable digital device (e.g. laptop, tablet)	◯	◯	◯	◯

31. In your attempt to download/view learning material posted online, or attend a course at-distance, did you encounter internet connection issues? *

Mark only one oval.

◯ I don't have an internet connection at home and I had to attend the class and download the material from elsewhere

◯ Yes, I had trouble attending my online classes and it took me a long time to download or view the learning material

◯ Sometimes the internet was slow when attempting to join my online classes but I didn't have a problem downloading or viewing the learning material

◯ No, I never had such a problem

32. To what extent did each of the following educational issues made it difficult for you to switch to distance learning? *

Mark only one oval per row.

	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To a small extent	Not at all
It was not clear what the instructor was asking me to do during the online class session, or for homework	◯	◯	◯	◯
Personally I prefer face-to-face classes	◯	◯	◯	◯
Some activities were hard for me or I couldn't understand what I had to do.	◯	◯	◯	◯
I couldn't concentrate during class	◯	◯	◯	◯
I couldn't see my classmates	◯	◯	◯	◯
I couldn't ask as many questions as I wanted or have a discussion with the instructor	◯	◯	◯	◯
I could not participate in extracurricular activities (e.g. educational trips, visits to museums, etc.)	◯	◯	◯	◯

33. How often have you experienced the following difficulties during distance education? *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	N/A
Difficulties due to internet connection issues	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
Difficulties due to managing family needs simultaneously with my studies workload	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
Difficulties due to managing work duties simultaneously with my studies workload	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
Difficulties due to instructors' negative attitudes	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
Classroom management by the instructor	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
Excessive workload	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
Other	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭

34. How would you describe, based on your experience your adaptation to distance education? *

Mark only one oval.

- ⬭ I have found it very difficult to adapt to at-distance learning
- ⬭ I have faced several difficulties in trying to adapt to at-distance learning
- ⬭ I have faced only few difficulties in adapting to at-distance learning
- ⬭ I did not face any difficulties in adapting to at-distance learning

35. From the moment the at-distance courses started, how much time did you spend in total each day in front of the computer/laptop/tablet / mobile phone attending your instructors' lessons, studying, and participating in other extracurricular courses or activities outside your studies (e.g. exercising, at courses, music courses, etc.)? *

Mark only one oval.

◯ 0-3 hours

◯ 4-6 hours

◯ 7-10 hours

◯ 11 hours or more

Distance Learning for all

36. Based on your experience, which of the following would be useful to either support more effective distance learning or to enhance the distance learning already provided during the COVID-19 lockdown. *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Extremely useful	Very useful	Moderately useful	Slightly useful	Not useful at all
Provision of services for sending study material to my home	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
Access to printing services	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
Better access to the internet	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
Access to a reliable home computer or suitable device (e.g, laptop, Chromebook, tablet)	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
Digital platforms that provide online material for digitally-enhanced teaching and learning	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
Ready-made lessons that can be delivered via video, virtual conference	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭

37. Which of the following is/are true? *

Check all that apply.

☐ I shared a place with other students or family members

☐ I didn't have reliable access to a PC

☐ My computer did not have a camera and/or microphone

☐ I didn't have access to a printer

☐ I didn't have reliable access to any technology

☐ I didn't have reliable access to the internet

☐ I lack keyboarding fluency skills

☐ I had accessibility problems in my courses due to disabilities and / or other educational needs

Other: ☐ _____

38. If you are a student with disabilities and/or other educational needs, did your institution provide any of the following to address your educational needs during the COVID-19 period?. *

Check all that apply.

☐ Extension to submit assingments

☐ Additional time in final exams

☐ Synchronous online support

☐ Supporting learning materials

☐ Oral final exam

☐ Other:

39. Please, briefly describe the reasons that you believe affected your participation or non-participation as a student with disabilities and/or other educational needs in the distance learning process offered during the COVID-19 lockdown.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Reflective questions about the implementation of distance education

Dear students, we are kindly asking you to answer the following questions. Your opinion is extremely important in reaching to conclusions in regards to at-distance education due to COVID-19.

40. How satisfied do you feel with your performance in your courses during the conduct of the online sessions, and in general with your at-distance learning practices? *

Mark only one oval.

( ) Not at all

( ) Slightly satisfied

( ) Moderately satisfied

( ) Very satisfied

( ) Extremely satisfied

41. When normal operation of your institution (without any COVID-19 measures) resumes, would you like your instructors to use the tools and technologies you got acquainted with during the at-distance education period? *

Mark only one oval.

( ) Yes, I would like my instructors to incorporate these tools and technologies into their courses

( ) Yes, we were already using these tools and technologies prior to COVID-9 and I would like them to continue to do so

( ) No, I would not like my instructors to incorporate these tools and technologies into their courses

42. Which tools, that you did not have at your disposal during at-distance education, do you think would have made your studies easier?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

43. What are your main concerns regarding the new situation that has emerged in the field of higher education due to COVID-19?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

44. What particular difficulties emerged in relation to the remote attendance of courses of your specific field of study?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

45. If we were able to solve ONE of the problems you are or were facing during the COVID-19 institution lockdown, what would that be?

46. What opportunities for improving the teaching and learning of your specific field of study have emerged as a result of it being offered at-distance?

47. OPTIONAL: If you wish to enter the draw to win a gift voucher from Bionic, please fill in your contact details (name, email and phone number)

We value your time and will use your feedback to make suggestions for improved methodologies, pedagogical approaches, and instructional tools and material that can better meet the challenging conditions we are currently experiencing. Thank you for your efforts in these unprecedented times.

Google Forms