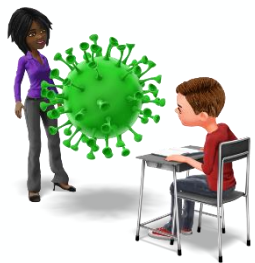




# On-campus student experiences of online learning due to COVID-19: Social experiences



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College of Education, Health  
and Human Development



# Level 4 at UC Semester 1 2020

## Pre-lockdown

- 5 weeks on campus

## Level 4: Term 2

- All activities online
- All assessments deferred
- Practical activities...impractical



Kia ora koutou,

Following the Prime Minister's [announcement](#) earlier today, all UC lectures, tutorials, labs and workshops will stop from midnight tonight. Term break commences tomorrow, 24 March.

Term two will begin one week early, with online teaching commencing on Monday 20 April.

Understandably, you may be feeling stressed right now, and this decision relieves any pressure to complete any assignments or tests. These will be deferred to Term two and further information on this will be provided.



# Rationale / Research Questions

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**What were on-campus students' experiences of online learning at UC?**

In particular:

- What activities/initiatives by lecturers/UC worked particularly well?
- What did the students miss most?
- How were students affected by disruption to practical experiences?
- What were students' experiences of assessment during this period?



## Our team

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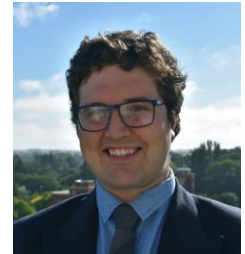
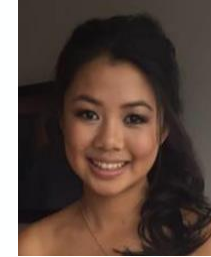
Jenny Clarke, Senior Lecturer, School of Health Sciences

Debbie Munro, Senior Lecturer in Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering



Cheryl Brown, Associate Professor of e-learning, School of Educational Studies and Leadership

Nora Kwok, MSS, Research Assistant



Philippa Martin, Professor of Electrical Engineering, Dean of Engineering (Intermediate)



Daniel van der Walt, EngME Mentoring Lead, Lecturer in Civil Engineering

# Research design

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## Two online surveys:

- 5-17 May – capturing Term 1 on-campus reflections (94 participants)
- 8-20 June – main survey: Term 2 experiences of online learning (258 participants)
- Demographics, Likert-style, open text fields

## Cohort:

- Bachelor of Sport Coaching
- Bachelor of Engineering
- Master of Engineering (taught course)




# Key themes

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- Social isolation
- Motivation difficulty
- Loss of practical experiences
- Frustration with some assessment practices
- Strong appreciation for staff efforts
- Feedback on efforts to deliver online learning

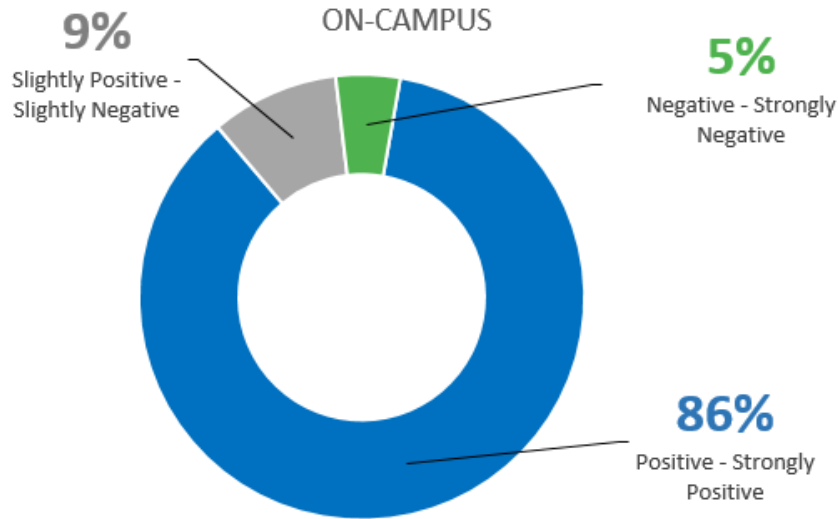




“Having to physically remove my self from bed, have a shower, eat food, and then walk over to Uni, my workplace, has a significant mental impact. I get to see friends, tutors, and lecturers in real life. Doing work at home is isolating.”

“loss of feeling engaged in a learning community”

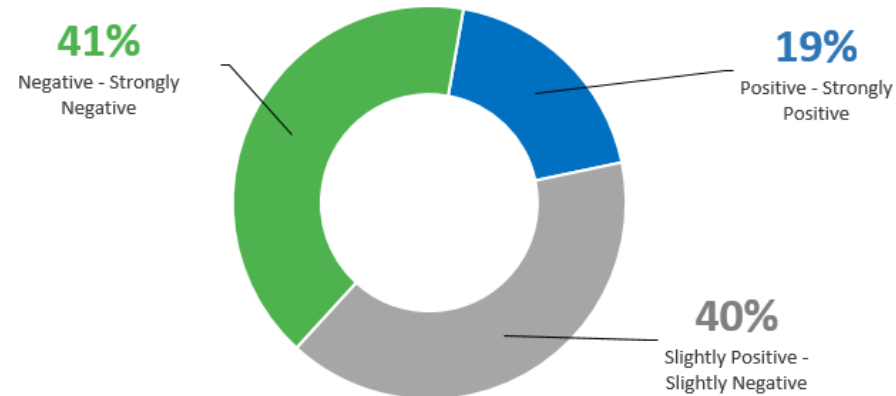
### Student Experience of Studying in Semester 1 2020: Term 1



Please rate your agreement with the following statement: **My overall learning experience on-campus in Term 1 was positive**

### Student Experience of Studying in Semester 1 2020: Term 2

DISTANCE



N=227

Q: Please rate your agreement with the following statement:  
My overall learning experience distance learning in Term 2 was positive.

Please rate your agreement with the following statement:  
**My overall experience of distance learning in Term 2 was positive**

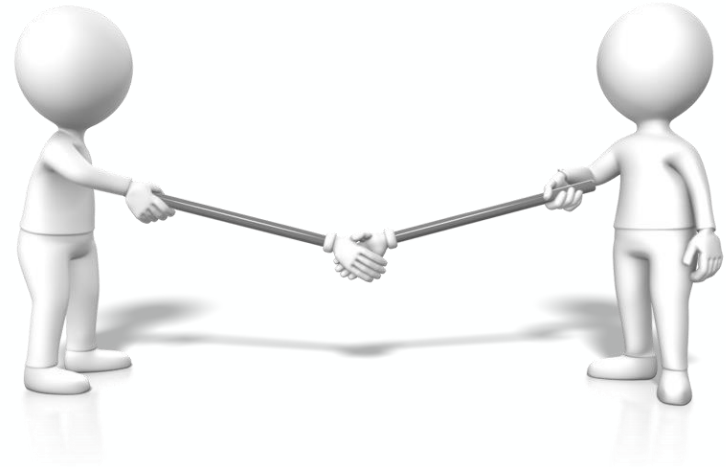
N=43  
Q: Please rate your agreement with the following statement:  
My overall learning experience on-campus in Term 1 was positive.



# Social Experiences

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- Social interactions
- Gauging relative progress
- Missing the 'fun'
- Loss of study buddies
- Isolated from 'community'
- Distractions at home





“Difficult to self-  
manage/maintain motivation in  
home environment.”

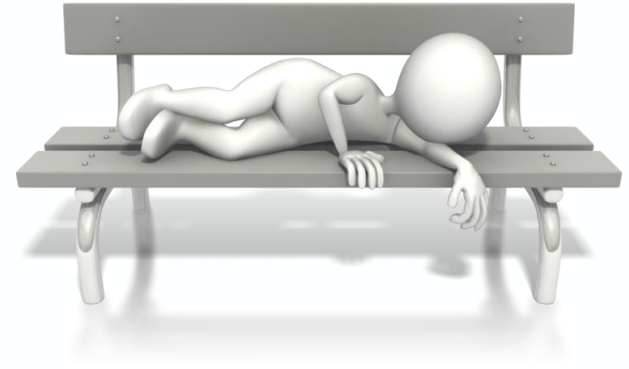
“Compared to term 1, I had a  
good schedule going, but after  
the shift online, everything  
around that fell apart slightly.”

# Challenges of learning in lockdown

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## ➤ Motivation

- Not held accountable
- Disengagement with course
- Difficulty in getting immediate help
- Repurposed lectures unengaging
- Assessments



# Challenges / Limitations

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- Everyone wants to survey students about COVID experiences!
- Disparate numbers between surveys

## Next steps

- Focus group interviews
- Disseminate knowledge
- Into our own practice...



# A personal note – my changing practice

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- Distance cohort
- Made-for-purpose presentations
- Emails
- Printed materials
- Facebook group / zoom drop-ins / ...





**THANK  
YOU**