

## **'Bring your own' meets 'get your own' at USW**

This exemplar is relevant to Digital Student challenges:

***Deliver an inclusive student experience, using technology to overcome disadvantage and difficulty of access***

***Develop coherent policies for 'Bring Your Own'***

The University of South Wales has robust BYO policies for both staff and students. Although security issues are covered, the emphasis is on 'respectful' use that minimises distraction and disruption for other students and acknowledges differences of practice. Positive classroom behaviours are described and encouraged, but 'switching off' remains an option if teaching staff have good reason to request it. Equality and inclusivity are very much to the fore in these policies, recognising that students with disabilities often lead the way in the use of personal devices: for example to record sessions, access materials in different formats, or use preferred software and settings. The policies are backed up with detailed guidance on getting connected. There are online resources on using university services (on a range of platforms), educational apps, and security. Library/learning resource staff are available around campus with their own tablet devices, offering 'roving' support for the use of information services.

The University recognises, however, that some students have limited access to their own devices. One course provides tablets to arriving students, which they keep throughout their studies and beyond. Another uses shared iPads to support groupwork and seminar presentations among undergraduates in Nursing. The use of personal devices among these groups has been found to enhance confidence, collaboration, and presentation skills. Students are also better able to capture learning events for revision.

### **How does this meet the challenge?**

- BYO has evolved from a form of reasonable adjustment to meet the needs of students with identified disabilities to an inclusive policy designed to support the preferences of all.
- The BYO policy demands respect for differences in the online environment: *'The University is a multi-cultural, multi-racial community of staff and students with a wide diversity of opinions, views and life-styles. As such, we are concerned to ensure respect for all members of our community.'*
- The policy is sensitive to the needs of different student cohorts: device-for-all schemes ensure less-well-off students are not left behind.

### **Find out more**

- [Classroom guidelines for staff](#)
- [Classroom guidelines for students](#)
- [Own device policy](#)

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