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Creating inclusive online teaching and learning practices in Desire2Learn units and courses

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A key challenge for higher education today is the diversity of the student body. The project aims to provide insights of inclusive teaching and learning provided by the two pedagogical frameworks of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Universal Design of Instruction (UDI), and the technical capabilities of the Desire2Learn (D2L) learning management system to create guidelines and resources of inclusive online teaching and learning practices which give all individuals equal opportunities to learn.

The following methodological approach is taken:

- A review of the current educational literature of experiences of staff and students regarding new approaches to inclusive teaching and learning to underpin relevant principles and guidelines derived from the pedagogical frameworks of UDL and UDI.
- A review of the technical capabilities and features of the Desire2Learn to create inclusive teaching and learning online curriculum and practices.
- A combined approach of evaluation of inclusive teaching and learning practices in Faculty of Business and Law units in D2L through focus groups with course and unit teams, and students’ evaluation of the accessibility/inclusiveness of online teaching and learning resources and practices.

Expected outcomes of the project include:

- a set of context-specific guidelines, strategies and tools for inclusive online teaching and learning and curriculum design within the D2L learning management system.
- evidence-based effective and successful teaching and learning practices are developed as a result of this project’s research on pedagogy to design and create an inclusive curriculum, learning resources, activities and assessment of student learning.