DIGITAL LEARNING GUIDE
FOR UK PATHWAY PROGRAMMES
Welcome to digital learning

Digital learning has become an important part of student life, and it can provide you with many opportunities to learn and develop new skills. It’s also a great way for you to stay on track to university, without putting your dreams on hold!

We’d love to welcome you to study with us in person, with a mix of in-person and digital learning. However, we understand that you may not be able to start your studies in the UK.

That’s why you have the option to join your pathway course entirely online and transfer to the UK when possible. If you need to, you can even study your entire pathway course online (subject to continued UKVI approval) if that better suits your situation. The choice is yours.

At Kaplan, we have many years of experience in digital higher education. This means we’re able to offer high-quality online pathway courses, which are fully recognised by our partner universities, so that you can progress to university as planned.

You can study online with confidence with Kaplan, take control of your future, and follow your path to university without delay.

“Your education is the key to your future. Now, more than ever, it’s important that you continue on your path to a degree from a top UK university, so that you can start making a difference and changing the world as soon as possible.

Our digital learning solutions give you that opportunity: you can start your pathway course online without waiting, and progress to university as planned. The high quality of our online programmes, expertise of our teachers and care of our support staff mean that your education will be in safe hands.”

Linda Cowan, Managing Director, Kaplan International Pathways
6 reasons to choose digital learning with Kaplan

With over 80 years of experience in education, we’re no strangers to change at Kaplan. Our expertise and adaptability mean that we can offer digital learning solutions that allow you to gain a fantastic education, from wherever you are in the world.

**Digital learning experts**
We have 14 years of experience with online higher education programmes, and our university partners also lead the way in digital delivery.

**Flexible admissions policies that fit around you**
You don’t need a visa to start your course online, and we can accept a wide range of academic and English language qualifications.

**Online pathway courses that are fully recognised and accepted by our university partners**
When you start online, you’re still guaranteed progression to your degree when you pass your pathway course at the required level, with good attendance.

**Dedicated academic and wellbeing staff**
You’ll have the same experienced and caring people supporting you from afar, and they will help you achieve your best during your digital learning experience.

**Start a world-class study programme online soon**
You don’t have to put your dreams on hold! You can start your path to university without delay.

**Be part of a global community of digital learning students**
Thousands of students around the world are already studying online with us, and you can join them!

We can teach all of our pathway courses online through our digital learning solutions, so you can choose from a wide range of study options. The number of available progression degrees hasn’t changed either — you’ll still have access to more than 3,000 degrees at our partner universities, so you can find the path that’s right for you.
How digital learning works

When you study online with us, you’ll have the same teachers, quality of learning materials, and level of support that you’d have if you were studying in person at one of our colleges.

During your digital learning experience, you’ll become familiar with many online video collaboration tools, including Zoom and Microsoft Teams, and you’ll have a dedicated Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), where you can easily access all your learning materials.

You’ll be able to work closely with classmates and communicate with your teachers via online video calls and other platforms. We’ll help you get set up so that you’re ready to start your online studies right away.

What equipment do I need?

It doesn’t take much to fully engage with your course online.

You just need:
- a laptop or desktop computer with camera and microphone
- reliable internet access
- a headset
- an environment suitable for effective study without distractions

2 main types of classes

Synchronous sessions

A synchronous session is when you, your teacher and usually also your classmates, are present at the same time. These sessions take place at some point during UK teaching hours (9:00–18:00 UK time).

For example:
- Live video lectures and seminars
- Real-time interactive discussions with your tutor and other students
- Individual live tutorials
- One-to-one calls with your Learning Adviser

Asynchronous sessions

An asynchronous session is when you study in your own time. During an asynchronous session, you can participate at a different time from others, and have some flexibility in when you study online.

For example:
- Recorded lectures, from which you then answer questions
- Completing tasks / assignments online
- Your own research and background reading
- Email / instant messaging conversations and collaboration

“One thing I really enjoyed about my digital learning experience was that I had access to the lessons and materials, and I could go back to them as many times as I wanted to. I was surprised by how quickly I adapted to digital learning. If I’m honest, I found the first few days a bit challenging and I struggled to concentrate, but then I set up a study space and removed all distractions. This really helped me to focus!”

Navid from Afghanistan
Completed his online pathway course with distinction at the University of Essex International College

Learn more about how digital learning works
Watch a video about what your digital learning experience will be like:
› kpln.org/digitallearning
Staying on track

Our digital teaching methods allow you to engage with your classmates and teachers, just as you would during face-to-face lessons, so that you can stay on your path to university.

Expert teaching

You’ll enjoy interactive classes with plenty of discussion and opportunities to improve your English — you’ll even be able to ‘raise your hand’ to ask questions, and learn from classmates who will be studying with you from all around the world. Your teachers will be there to guide you, and you’ll be assigned a Learning Adviser who will assist you with any challenges you face. Through self-study, you’ll become an independent learner, an important skill that will prepare you for your university studies.

Example timetable

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<th>Thursday</th>
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<th>Saturday &amp; Sunday</th>
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<td>09:00–11:00 Entrepreneurship (live session)</td>
<td>09:00–11:00 Mathematics (live session)</td>
<td>09:00–11:00 Extended Project (live session)</td>
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Let’s help you picture a typical week

You’ll have live sessions from Monday to Friday during UK teaching hours. Don’t worry, there are no synchronous classes on Saturdays and Sundays! The timetable above shows example modules to give you an idea of what to expect — exactly what you study depends on your pathway course and university degree.

“"I have been teaching international students for 15 years, and I’ve seen first-hand how their expectations and needs have evolved during that time. The world we live in today is more connected than ever, and technology plays a huge part in our daily lives. That’s why, at Kaplan, we’re always pushing forward with the times, responding to change, and putting technology at the heart of the classroom.

I believe this adaptability has prepared us for digital learning. We’ve been able to transition to online classes smoothly, and are seeing remarkable results already.”

Dr. Doug Alton, UK College Director

Progressing to university

By starting your pathway course online, you can still finish on time and progress to your university degree as planned. We’re here to help you succeed, so that you can achieve your academic ambitions and look forward to an exciting future.

How will I be assessed?

Your teachers will set you a range of tasks and assessments and continually provide feedback on your work. This will help you to stay motivated and make progress during your pathway course.

Your digital learning assessments could include a mix of:

- essays
- individual and collaborative projects
- open-book exams (where you can refer to your study materials)
- audio and video submissions
- live question-and-answer sessions with your tutors
- adapted presentations

Your college will send you the schedule for these assessments, along with clear instructions for how to upload these to meet important deadlines, and there will even be virtual supervisors during your exams to provide support. All of the assessment methods we have put in place maintain a high level of academic quality, and have been approved by our partner universities.

Our assessment methods are designed to ensure you’re staying on your path to your degree — we want to see you succeed.
Support and student life

You’ll have a lot of support during your digital learning experience, and you’ll also have the opportunity to become part of a welcoming online community.

Supporting you, wherever you are
Your College Services team will be there for you (virtually!) while you study remotely. They’re available to assist you with any questions you have, and help you to make the most out of your digital learning experience. Remember, you’ll also be able to speak to your Learning Adviser, who will support you with your academic development, and help you along the way.

Help getting started
Once you are registered to start digital learning, we will set up a video call with you to go through all the information you’ll need before your pathway course begins. This includes:

- Taking you through the set-up process for the online learning platforms you’ll be using
- Important dates and other information you’ll need, so you can start planning your study time
- A welcome talk from your College Director, who may also give you a virtual tour of your university and city
- Welcome Week activities, which may include a virtual, parents’ evening, and a welcome party with other students

Have fun while you study online
Your College Services team will also organise lots of great online activities and events, including language clubs, quizzes and games, so you can meet other students who are studying online, and have fun outside class!

Don’t just take our word for it
See some of the results from our digital learning student satisfaction survey:

89% of students surveyed said that they felt they had sufficient contact with their teachers during their online pathway course.

86% of students surveyed said that they found it easy to access live online activities.

Hear from more students
Watch videos from students studying online:
> kpln.org/digitalcommunity

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“I didn’t think I would be in my room in Mauritius learning 9,000 kilometres away from the UK, but the College staff have done an amazing job. They’ve made it possible for us to learn and understand what they’re teaching us from afar. They’re heroes to me!”

Anuj from Mauritius

“What surprised me about digital learning was just how similar it is to an actual classroom. There are still features such as raising your hand, spaces for group work, you can talk to classmates privately or message the whole class, and there’s even a collaborative whiteboard!”

Beau from Australia

89% of students surveyed said that they felt they had sufficient contact with their teachers during their online pathway course.
Apply with confidence

We’re committed to helping students around the world continue to gain access to the fantastic education the UK has to offer. That’s why we have flexible policies in place to help you plan your future, and apply with confidence.

Flexible applications and admissions

Apply with the documents you have available

In addition, we are in many cases accepting alternative English language test results to UKVI IELTS, as well as alternatives to full academic transcripts, as part of applications for digital learning. This should all help you confirm your place with us.

Secure your place without a CAS or visa

By accepting your offer and paying your deposit, you’ll secure a place on your chosen pathway course. This will enable you to progress to your degree at the earliest opportunity. You don’t even need a Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) or visa to start your pathway course online!

Transfer to face-to-face teaching when the time is right

Join us in person when you can: we’ll be ready to welcome you. For your safety, classes in the UK will be a mix of online and in-person teaching (known as blended learning). Alternatively, you can complete your pathway course online (subject to continued approval by UK Visas and Immigration).

Accepted alternative documents

If you don’t have your latest full academic transcripts or a UKVI IELTS score because your education institution and/or IELTS test centre is closed, we can consider historical academic transcripts and other indicative documents for the current year, as well as equivalent English language test scores to UKVI IELTS, including:

- Duolingo
- IELTS General or Academic (UKVI or non-UKVI)
- IELTS Indicator
- KITE
- LanguageCert
- PTE (Pearson Test of English)
- TOEFL iBT
- High school English certificate for selected countries

Contact our expert admissions advisers who will be happy to help:

› kaplanpathways.com/contact

Please note: The above digital learning applications and admissions policies are valid for Kaplan-taught pathway courses only. For more information about the International Foundation Programme at the University of Bristol, Engineering and Physical Sciences Foundation Certificate at the University of Nottingham, and University of York International Pathway College programmes, please contact us:

› kaplanpathways.com/contact

Student success

Our digital learning students complete their pathway courses with outstanding results, with many receiving unconditional offers to progress to their chosen degree. These students continued to follow their path to university, and you can too!

93% of students passed their online course, with 98% of these students receiving an unconditional study offer from their chosen university.

Apply now

Learn more about digital learning and how to apply to study a pathway course online:

› kaplanpathways.com/apply-with-confidence

Research your study options and available degrees:

› kaplanpathways.com/degree-finder
Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publishing, but changes are likely to occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of the course. It is therefore very important to check the website or contact us for any updates before you apply. Once you have applied, any change which impacts the terms and conditions of your offer or a significant part of your programme will be communicated to you. Published June 2020, updated January 2021.

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