

DIGI-FACE Modules: Second Semester 2021

While some of DIGI-FACE's firm favourites like 'Academic Written and Graphic Presentation' (AWGP), 'Exploring the Online Learning Environment' (EOLE) and 'Strengthening Post Graduate Supervision' (SPG) were on offer again during the second half of the year, a number of new modules and mini-modules also became available to date. The 'Technology Enhanced Teaching and Learning I (TETL I)' module generated interest, as did the 'Quantitative Research Methodologies 1' module, which was offered to two separate groups.

Quite a few new modules became available in the second semester of 2021.

The first mini-modules offered were the 'Module Makeover', 'Using your Padcaster' and 'Managing your DIGI-FACE Moodle Site'. The 'Managing your DIGI-FACE Moodle Site' mini-module specifically targeted 'Centre IT Managers'. Access to stable Internet connections and the cost of data remain important challenges for online teaching and learning within the project, while growing familiarity with the DIGI-FACE Moodle Management System bode well for the future.

Course name	Description
Exploring the Online Learning Environment (EOLE)	This module introduces participants to the DIGI-FACE Moodle platform and enables them to create their own courses by experiencing some of the pedagogical and technical activities that the platform affords.
Managing your DIGI-FACE Moodle site (MDFMS) mini-module.	Managing courses: Authenticating, creating course shells, enrolling and supporting peers.
Using your PadCaster (UyP) mini-module	From unpacking your PadCaster to editing your video.
Academic Written and Graphic Presentation (AWGP)	This course aims at providing post-graduate students and academics with the basics needed for presenting their academic work professionally.
Quantitative Research Methodologies (QRM)	This course introduces you to the basics of quantitative research processes. It covers methodology, an introduction to Microsoft Excel, some hints on self-organization as well as first steps into descriptive statistics.
Module makeover (MM) mini-module	Academics and media personnel who have already created an online course/s and wish to improve their user experience (UX).

Online Teaching Tips

How do you get more **students to complete** your module?



It's no secret that it can be challenging to complete an online course. In a brick-and-mortar classroom people can rely on face-to-face interactions and set lecture times to help motivate themselves to complete a module/course. With more and more institutions and individuals turning to online learning we thought we would share with you some tips from the "eLearning Industry" website: 7 Ways to Increase Online Course Completion Rates.

In the article you will find useful information around how to promote course completion, including the following:

Read the full article [here](#).

- 1 Set A Clear Deadline for Completion
- 2 Break the Course into Smaller Steps
- 3 Block Time in Calendars
- 4 Have a Clear "Why"
- 5 Communicate, Communicate, Communicate
- 6 Reward and Recognise
- 7 Follow Up with Incompletes

Upcoming dates/events

To register for any of the upcoming courses, visit digiface.org

November modules

Achieving Research Coherence
Canva mini-module

December modules

PowerPoint to e-Learning mini-module

14 December 2021

Virtual meeting: Steering Committee and Advisory Board

Monitoring the quality of DIGI-FACE modules

2021 Quality Assurance Body meetings

Merlin Kull

The DIGI-FACE Quality Assurance Body (QAB) is made up of a group of experts in higher education whose main responsibility is to help ensure that all modules shared on DIGI-FACE meet a certain standard. The group of academics from around the globe met to discuss and define a clear set of guidelines and criteria during two online meetings on the 10th of May and 14th of September 2021. Both meetings were chaired by Professor Proscovia Namubiru from CERM-ESA, Uganda Management Institute.

During the meetings the various QAB members deliberated on the processes and standards that need to be put in place in order to ensure the quality of all generic and modules of general interest made available on the DIGI-

FACE platform. Specific criteria and guidelines were identified for both the production of generic modules as well as modules of general interest.

We invite all Centres to produce their own digital modules to be shared with all DIGI-FACE members. However, before being made available on DIGI-FACE, every generic and module of general interest will have to pass an assessment based on the criteria defined by the QAB.

More information about the process and criteria will be shared soon. If you'd like to share one of your Centre's modules please submit a proposal to Karlien.Potgieter@mandela.ac.za to nominate your module as a module of general interest.

Roles of the QAB

- Setting the quality criteria for all Generic Modules and Modules of General Interest
- Deciding on the requirements and criteria that have to be met for a module to be published on the DIGI-FACE site
- Assessing the quality of newly developed modules (Generic modules and Modules of General Interest)
- The approval of Generic Modules and Modules of General Interest

What are the Generic Modules and Modules of General Interest?

Generic Modules

Generic Modules are not discipline specific and have been created for all Centres of Excellence. They aim at contributing to interdisciplinary, methodological and personal qualifications towards strengthening postgraduate teaching, learning and research.

Modules of General Interest

Modules of general interest are modules developed by a Centre of Excellence, which concern specific disciplines and which are intended to be generally accessible to all the Centres of Excellence.

The generic modules and modules of general interest are presented in digital format using innovative scenarios and cutting-edge digital teaching and learning methods. These modules are available to be used as design exemplars to assist all Centres of Excellence in the creation and integration of their own modules into the platform.

Beyond the African Excellence network

Merlin Kull

DIGI-FACE generates interests all over the world

DIGI-FACE has generated a lot of interest in recent months, even beyond their primary market: the African Excellence Network. Other African and international cooperation projects have also sat up and paid attention to the platform. As a result, the DIGI-FACE project was represented at several virtual events where the team could share more about their experience and the approach they've taken to the project. Their presence at these events allowed the team to engage in an active exchange, and to identify beneficial synergies among the different stakeholders. **Read more** to find out about their experience at two key online events that involved other DAAD stakeholders.

The DIGI-FACE project was represented at several virtual events

Two new Centres join the DIGI-FACE family

We are eagerly looking forward to working with these Centres

The DIGI-FACE consortium welcomes two new Centres to the African Excellence family! Both new Centres of Excellence focus on resource management. Pro-RUWA (short for "Promoting Academic Capacities for Sustainable Agricultural Resources Use in West Africa) and SCO (short for Sustainable Operations for Resource Management and Food Supply) will be progressively onboarded, joining in DIGI-FACE activities, and becoming an integral part of the African Excellence network. It is believed that this is the start of a valuable partnership between DIGI-FACE and the two new Centres.

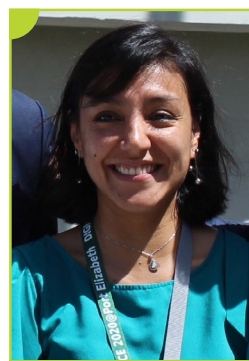
Farewell to Nilly Chingaté Castaño

It is with regret that we say farewell to Nilly Chingaté Castaño, former Programme Manager at the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management. Nilly worked on the development of Sustainable Operating Systems for DIGI-FACE and was a member of the Congolese German Centre for Microfinance (CCAM).

She is currently working as Product Manager for QS World University Ranking where she helps manage the rankings of universities based on surveys from academics worldwide.

Nilly said "I am still in the higher education management field, but this is a little bit different. As soon as I have my visa for the UK, I will move there with my daughter. In the meantime, I am still based in Frankfurt". Nilly goes with grateful thanks and every best wish for the future from the DIGI-FACE community.

Anna Hettche (a member of the Frankfurt School staff) taking over her role. Read more about Anna [here](#).



Nilly Chingaté Castaño



Anna Hettche



Eva Rothenpieler

DAAD and the digitalisation of Centres of African Excellence

Eva Rothenpieler has been part of the Centres of African Excellence programme for many years and has provided essential administrative support to all of the Centres in her time at the DAAD. Eva has recently been promoted within DAAD to be the person responsible for digitalisation within the Centres of African Excellence programme. Her experience and current responsibilities will be of great help to the team, especially in the light of the fact that the platform is growing and opening up other DAAD-funded programmes. We are eagerly looking forward to working with her even more closely than before and will rely on her guidance and advice as the project grows and develops.

New faces

As noted in the editorial, some new faces have contributed to the team. You can learn more about their contributions and interests [here](#).



Simoné Scott



Brandon James



Michael Kongo



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Vanessa Liehr



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