

Flexible Learning and QA

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World Bank Education and COVID-19

No. of students in countries w/ fully closed schools
1,077,058,767

Number of students in countries with partially closed schools

50 134 558

No. of students in countries w/ partially closed schools

50,134,558

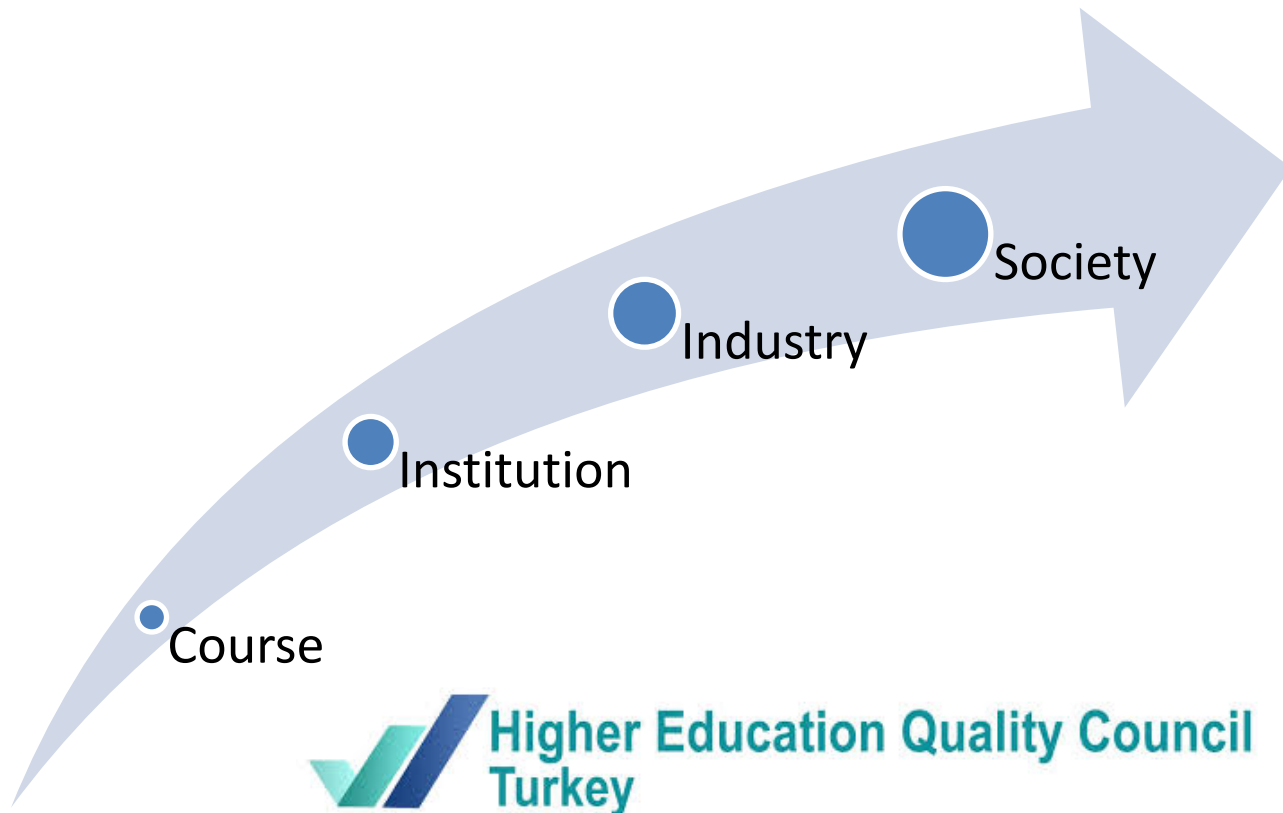
Number of countries by information status as of 7/30/2020 5:40:43 PM

Closed	■	111
Closed (in select areas)	■	4
Seasonal school closures	■	14
Open with limitations	■	59
Open	■	7
Null, No information available, Not ..	■	7

ank.org); Enrollment data from UIS as of March 17th 2020 downloaded from the World Bank API (SE.PRE.ENRL; SE.PRM.ENRL;

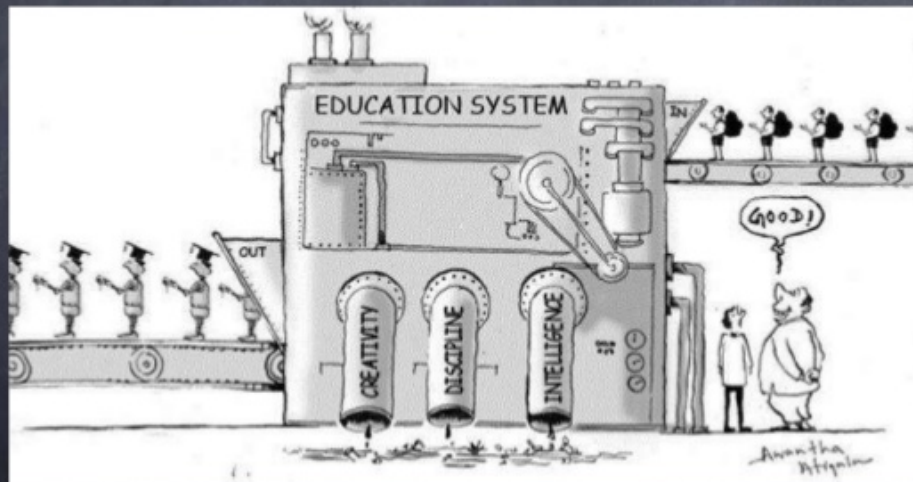


What should I talk about?



HE Must Change!

Educational system is outdated



◦ Was designed for the industrial age

“The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.” **Albert Einstein**

Catalysts of Change

- Pandemics
- Refugees
- Environmental and Natural Disasters
- Changing technologies
- Societal and political forces
- Future Jobs

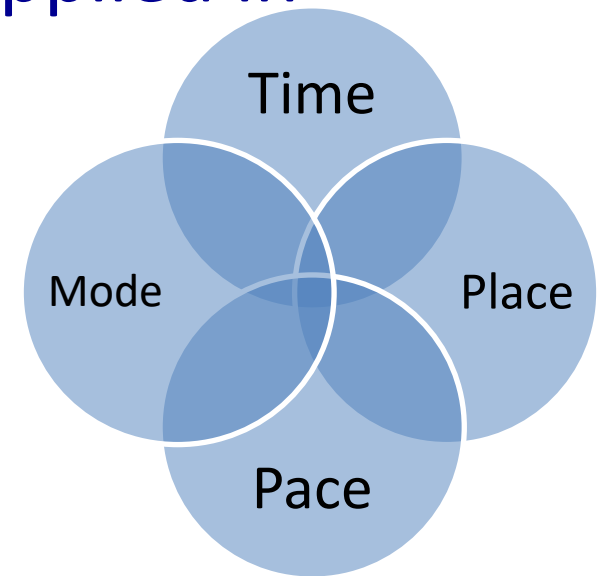
These forces of change and adaptation have produced what we are calling "the synergistic digital economy and will cause disruptive shifts in higher education and in working lives and will require a revolution in educational objectives. The 60-Year Curriculum: A Strategic Response to a Crisis, Richards & Dede, 202

Flexible Learning

- What is flexible learning?
- Why is flexible learning important?
- How can flexible learning be assessed as part of quality assurance and accreditation processes?

What is Flexible Learning?

- Learner-centered, encourages greater independence and autonomy for the learner.
- Approach: continuum of time, place, pace, content and mode of learning applied in varying degrees



What is Flexible Learning?

- Enables and empowers learners
 - Greater control
 - Requires more self-direction
- Increases choice
 - Available to learners and teachers
 - Blurs internal/external boundaries of traditional learning processes

(George & Luke, 1995)

Where does Flexible Learning Occur?

- On-campus classroom learning
- Distance education
- Open learning
- Independent learning
- Resource based learning
- Teleteaching
- Computer managed learning
- Computer assisted learning
- Online learning
- Blended learning
- Mobile learning
- Virtual learning
- Multimedia learning
- More?

Thinking about Terminology

Online learning
Virtual learning
Distance learning

Emergency Remote Teaching

"Well-planned online learning experiences are meaningfully different from courses offered online in response to a crisis or disaster."

Source: Hodges, Moore, Lockee, Trust & Bond. "The Difference Between Emergency Remote Teaching and Online Learning." (Educause Review) 27 March 2020.

What are the benefits of Flexible Learning?

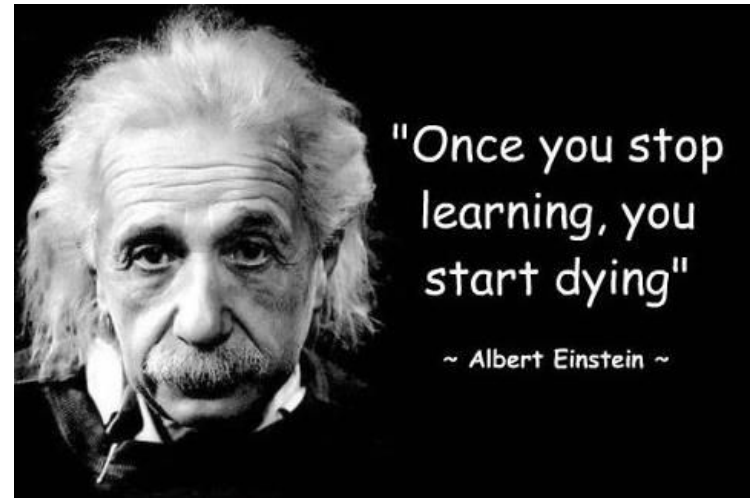
- Improved learning outcomes from using evidence-based and technology-enabled teaching methods
- More choice of learning options
- More scheduling options
- Enhanced personalization of degree programs

Learning Outcomes



What are the benefits of Flexible Learning?

- Learning options for career learners
- Improved learning experiences
- Open content (learning materials)
- Global learning options



What is the pedagogical philosophy?

- Learner centered
 - Empower learners
 - Greater control
 - Self-directed
- Flexibility in:
 - Admissions
 - Assessment
 - Delivery

Learner
Responsibility



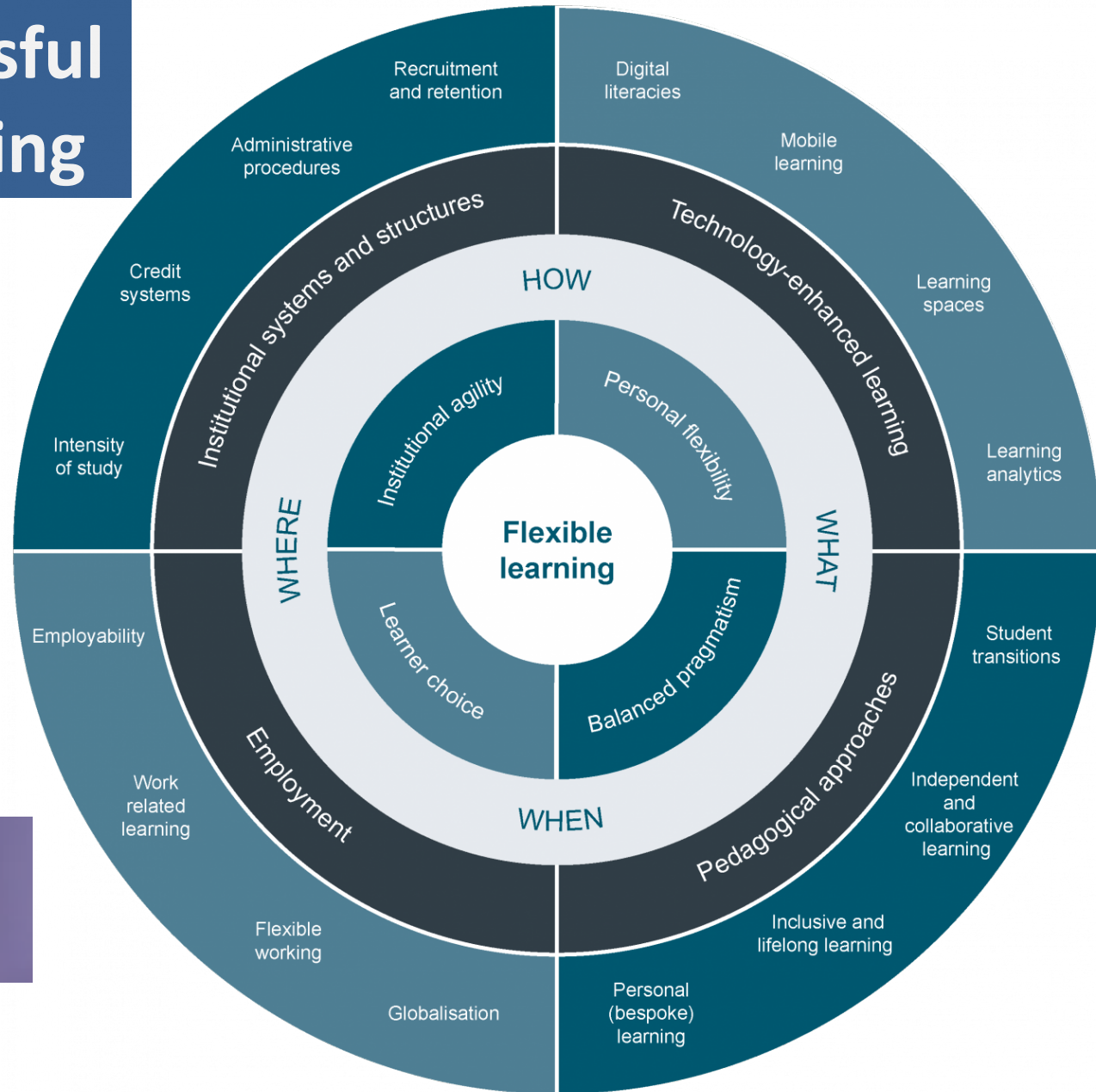
Freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being. With freedom comes responsibility. For the person who is unwilling to grow up, the person who does not want to carry is own weight, this is a frightening prospect.

(Eleanor Roosevelt)

ixquotes.com

Keys to Successful Flexible Learning

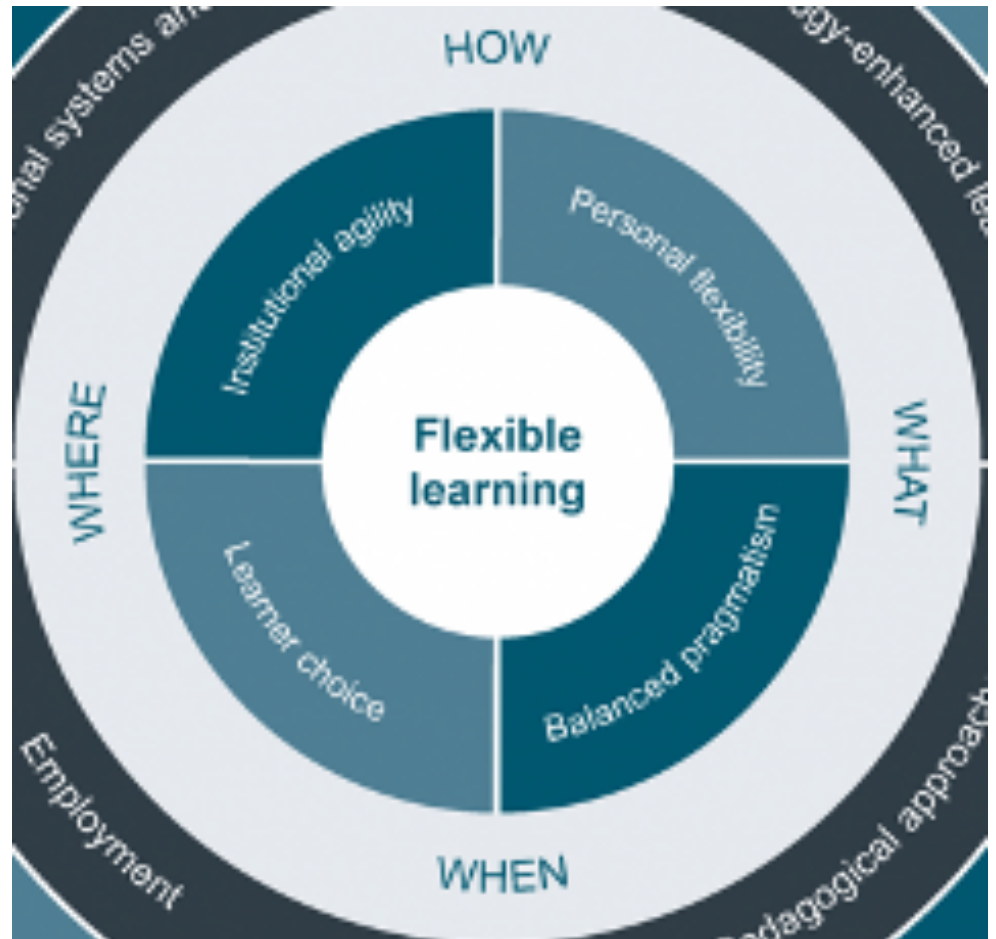
Framework for FL in higher education from *Advance HE* frameworks series



“AdvanceHE

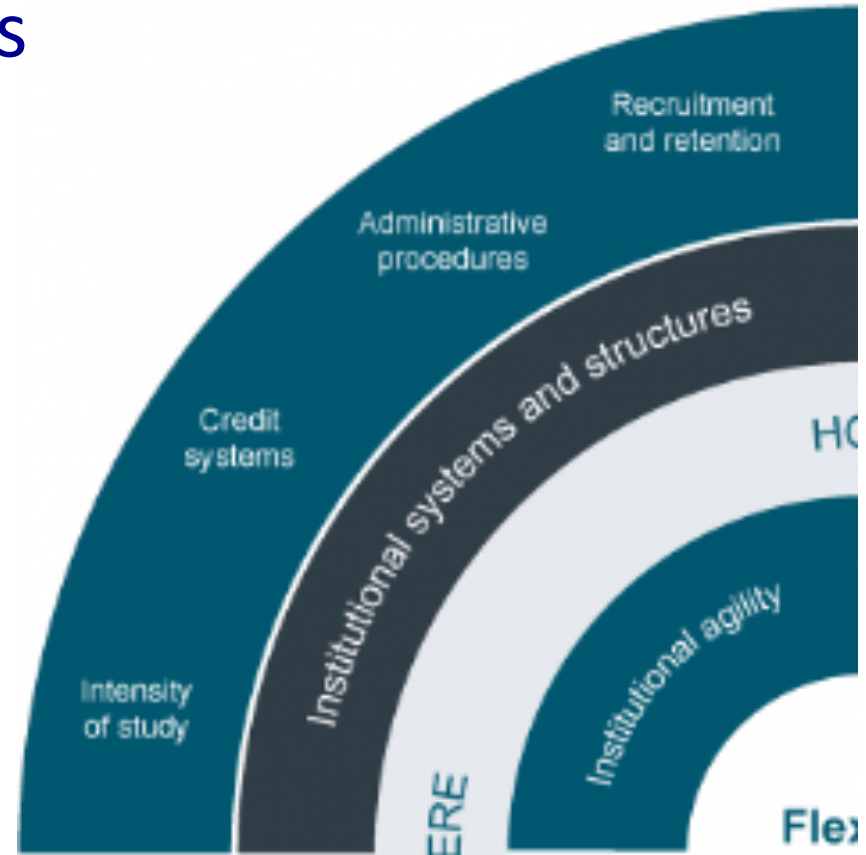
QA Process

- Same criteria & processes
- Fundamental questions associated with QA
 - What will FL accomplish and what evidence is needed to assess its effectiveness and efficiency?
 - When and where does FL occur?
 - How will FL be accomplished and how do we know (evidence)?
 - How will FL be measured?



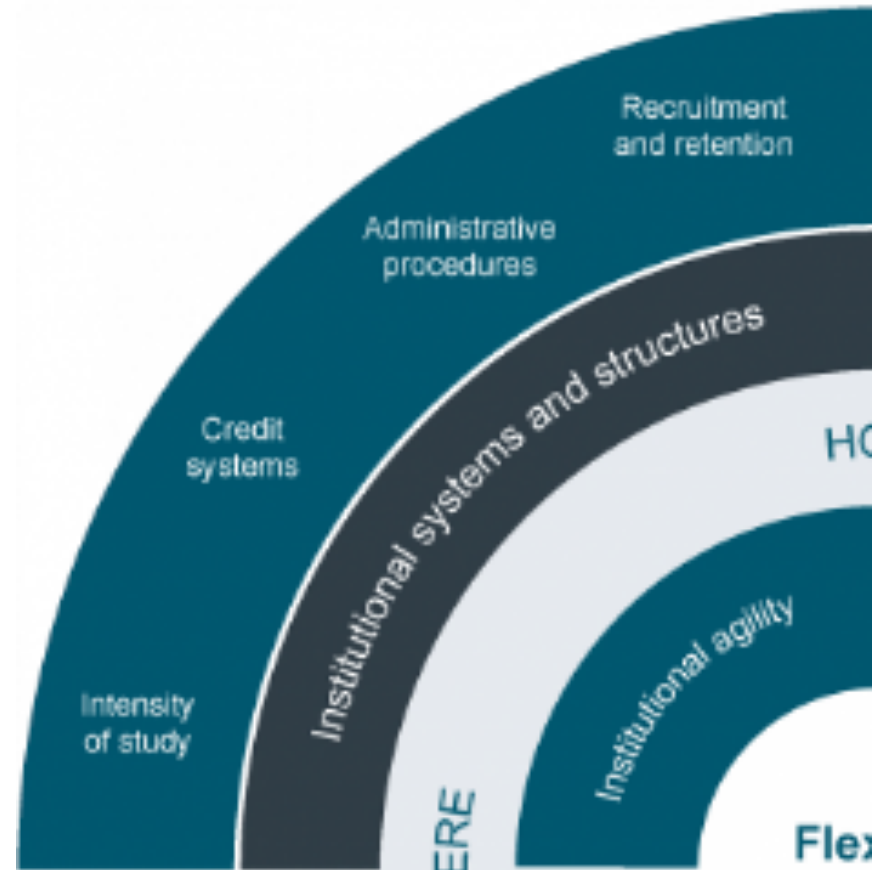
Institutional Agility

- Systems and Structures
 - Recruitment/Retention
 - Admin Procedures
 - Credit systems
 - Intensity of study



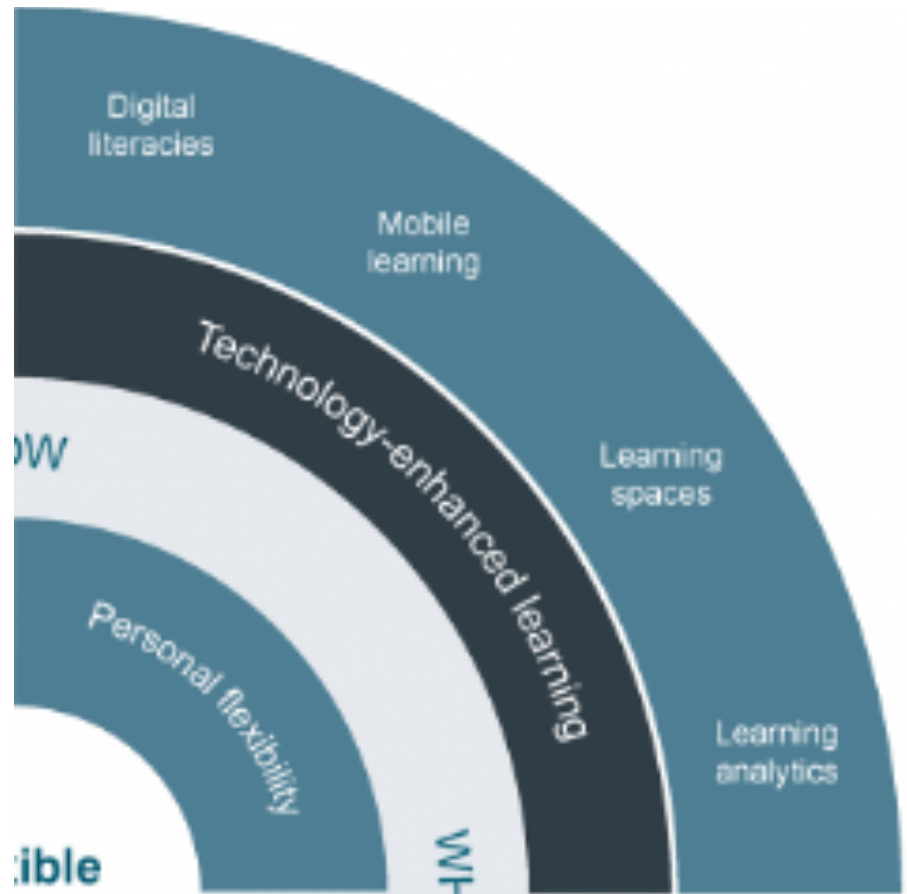
Institutional Agility

- QA Considerations
 - What systems and processes support flexible learning?
 - How is program effectiveness determined?
 - How is institutional agility demonstrated?
 - What is the level of leadership support?
- THEQC Criteria
 - A. Quality Assurance System
 - B. Learning & Teaching



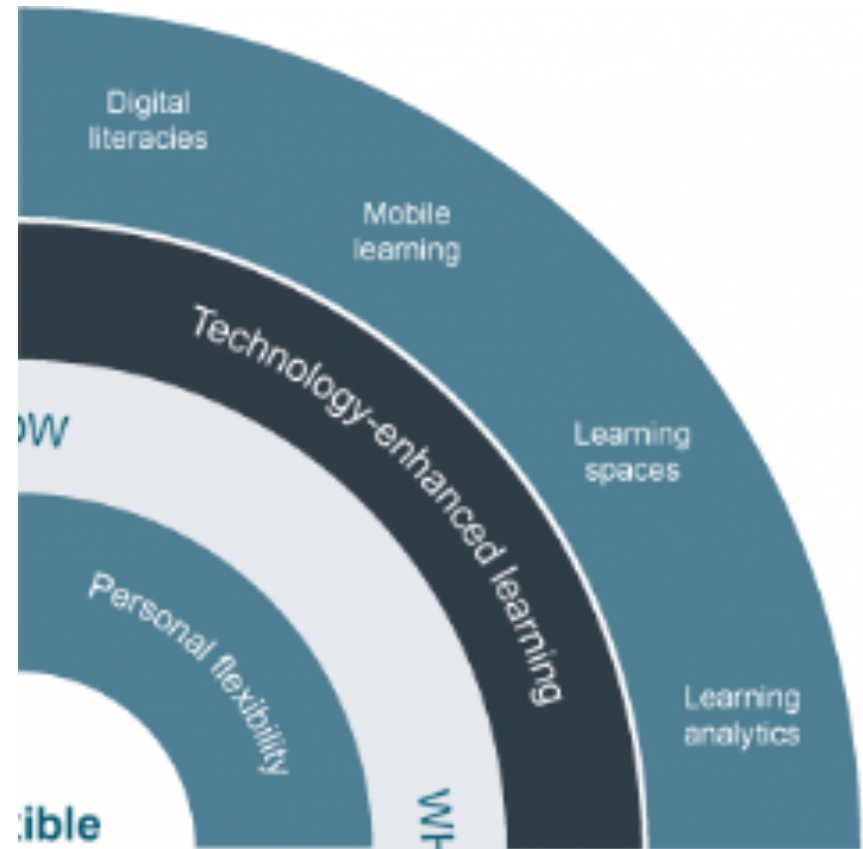
Personal Flexibility

- Technology-enhanced learning
 - Digital literacies
 - Mobile learning
 - Learning spaces
 - Learning analytics



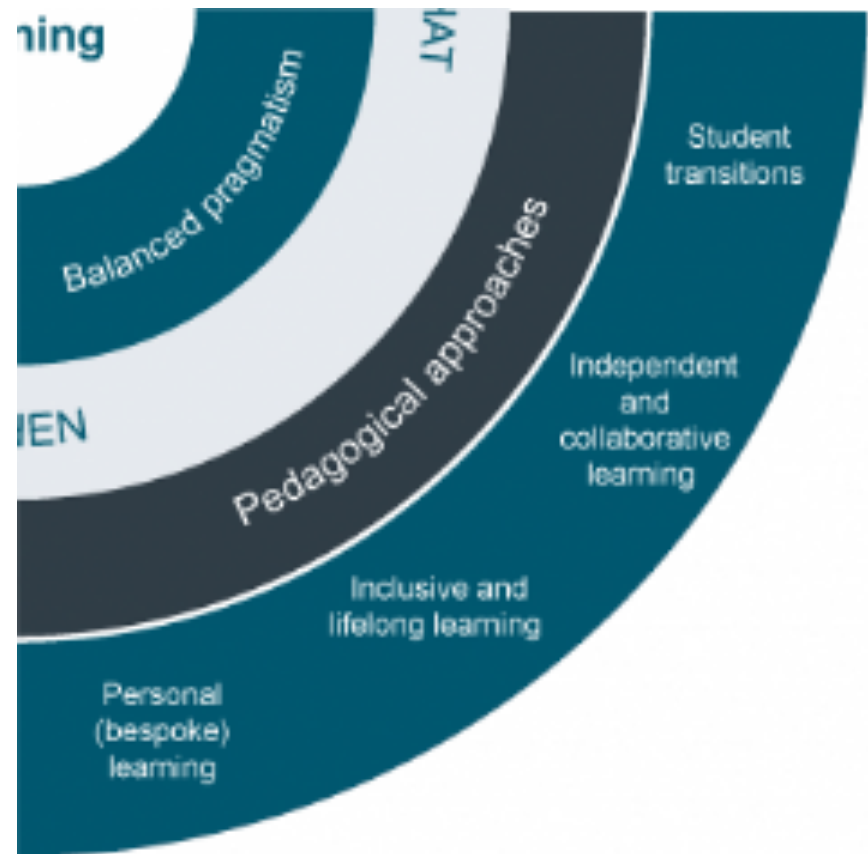
Personal Flexibility

- QA considerations
 - How does the institution support the learning environment?
 - How does the institution develop technology skills for students and faculty?
 - How is technology-enhanced learning assessed?
- THEQC Criteria



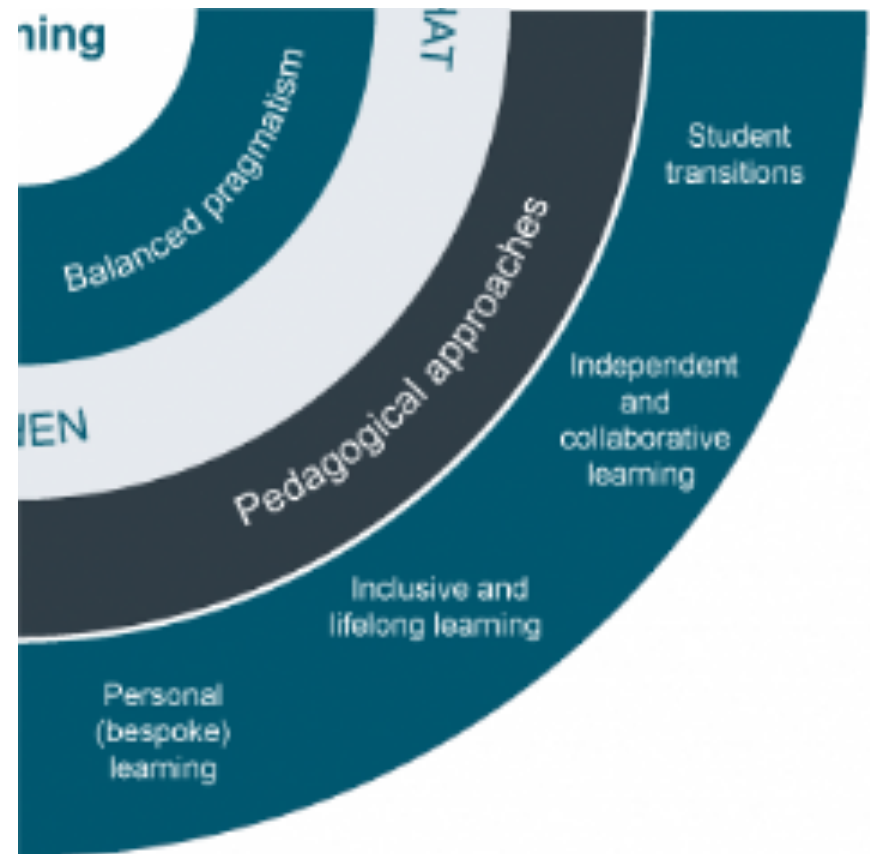
Balanced Pragmatism

- Pedagogical approaches
 - Student transitions
 - Independent and collaborative learning
 - Inclusive and lifelong learning
 - Personal learning



Balanced Pragmatism

- QA considerations:
 - How is FL addressed in institutional planning?
 - How effective is FL program in supporting student transition?
- THEQC Criteria
 - A. Quality Assurance System
 - B. Learning and Teaching
 - D. Social Contribution



Learner Choice

- Employment
 - Employability
 - Work related learning
 - Flexible working
 - Globalization
- Engage Students



Learner Choice

- QA Considerations
 - How are students involved in the design and implementation of programs?
 - How does the institution demonstrate individual and societal impacts?
 - How do flexible learning programs meet the changing needs of the student and society.
- THEQC Criteria
 - B. Learning & Teaching
 - D. Social Contribution



Conclusion

- Flexible learning
 - Learner-centered
 - Meets societal mobility and transformational needs
 - Occurring anywhere at any time
 - Using multiple modalities
 - Assessed for quality like other learning systems

Thank You

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