

## Context and key issues

Southern Cross University (SCU) is both a multi-campus and a distance education institution. Many on-campus components of study are offered simultaneously across several campuses and the technology used to connect all students to the same study event is the video-link. This may be used as the main teaching mode or in combination with Blackboard Collaborate™ and podcast recordings. When classrooms are video-linked the delivery is from the 'near end' and the 'far end' receives. The following ideas may be useful to guide your preparation for video-linked teaching in your units.

## What is video-linking?

Video-linking study events will allow people in different locations to meet and share a range of teaching and learning activities without coming together at the same venue. Video-linking serves as a communication process that allows you to see and hear each other as well as being able to:

- display printed documents, pictures, graphs, and small objects
- play DVD, VHS and audio files so people at all locations can see and hear at the same time
- display presentation slides, data and a range of digital files to all locations.

Using the SCU video-link system you can link to just one other site (point-to-point) or you can connect to a number of sites simultaneously (multi-point). At some stage you may be involved in staff meetings, school boards or boards of assessor meetings that are conducted via video-link in order to overcome the barriers of distance. Occasionally, professional teaching sessions are also facilitated using video-link technologies. This is especially beneficial where visiting scholars can only attend one of SCU's campuses but staff at other campuses wish to engage in these sessions.

## What is involved in teaching via video-link?

As you prepare to teach via video-link, consider carefully what this involves. If you hope to record your video-linked event using Mediasite, you must ensure you are teaching from one of the dedicated rooms on your campus which has this facility (Lismore – P158, U231, B231 and D105 or; Lakeside – C101). Also check the following:

- How many campuses will be linked, and how many students will be at each campus?
- Who will be the dedicated staff member from your school supporting you at the far end/s?
- Have you discussed the role of the far-end colleague/s?
- Will you travel to other campuses at any time, or rotate the 'near-end' experience through shared delivery by the teaching team during Session?
- Who is the technical support person to call for help, and their number?
- Will you want a recording of your teaching event using Mediasite or audio files, and how do you get this organised?
- Have the students been told they will be involved in video-linked teaching events?
- What will students need to prepare for video-linked teaching events?

## At-a-glance

Video-linking study events will allow people in different locations to meet and share a range of teaching and learning activities without coming together at the same venue.

## Planning your video-linked teaching event

- Just as you plan your lessons for the classroom or online, video-linked teaching events require careful planning. While the video-linked event helps to reduce a sense of fragmentation among the student cohort, and reinforces the fact that all students are receiving the same information at the same time, it is important to note that a key potential of video-linked teaching is about visual and auditory communication:
- How can you meet your learning objectives for each teaching event through the use of video-linked classes?
- Have you used the template (see below) to prepare your teaching event/s?
- Have you begun to 'think visually' (see Activating learning through visual presentations an At-a-glance document) about what will work for video-linked teaching?
- Have you designed your video-linked teaching event to incorporate the use of Powerpoint™ slides, document camera, DVD and CD players, if you need them?
- Have you registered for a workshop before you commence teaching by video-link? These are normally conducted by the Division of Teaching & Learning in collaboration with Technology Services.

## Delivering your video-linked teaching event

Another important feature of video-linked teaching is that it has the potential to provide an immediacy of interaction across locations. It is important to consider:

- dressing appropriately for best effect – dark colours, less jewellery
- selecting the best one of three 'pre-set' camera angles that suits your need to move around
- managing the delivery (pedagogical and technical) when switching focus
- ensuring you maintain eye contact (look up to the camera at the back of the room) to ensure all students (near and far) feel included in the teaching event
- pacing the teaching event to allow for questions from each campus.

Template for planning a video-link teaching event			
Time	Key concepts	Teaching and learning strategies	Visuals
15 minute chunks	3 ideas per 30 minutes	Vary pace and style, change the focal point on screen as appropriate Direct your comments to the camera as well as the audience in your room	Decide on the pictures, diagrams and digital files you plan to use to explain a concept Use engaging facial expressions, and body language

## How do you think it went?

Reflect to improve on your next video-linked teaching event.

### Source

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