AUT Canvas Principles

The AUT Canvas Principles guide colleagues to design Canvas courses that are welcoming, easy to navigate and help engage learners in their learning. The Principles are informed by evidence about what constitutes good practice in learning and teaching, and provide a baseline from which staff can further develop their use of Canvas to enhance their teaching and students' learning. The Principles underpin the AUT Canvas Threshold and Course Templates.

1. Structure

The Canvas course is structured clearly to help learners navigate quickly, understand the sequence of tasks and activities, access information and easily understand the layout of unfamiliar courses.

2. Orientation

The Canvas course helps learners to orientate themselves, by outlining how they are expected to learn and engage, and how they may contact key staff members to get help when they need it.

3. Communication

The Canvas course has consistent online communication with and between learners. The Course contains opportunities to hear from learners.

4. Teacher presence

The Canvas course facilitates an online presence to give learners a sense of belonging and help them to feel connected to a community of learning.

5. Assessment

The Canvas course clearly outlines assessment requirements and links to tools and information to help avoid plagiarism.

6. Resources

This Canvas course contains well-labelled learning resources, using internal and external sources. A course reading list is included.

7. Active learner participation

The Canvas course provides opportunities for active engagement for learners, through tasks and/or associated activities. Learners are encouraged to share their learning resources, interact with each other and participate in activities.

8. Accessibility

The Canvas course supports participation from all learners. Files are provided in accessible formats with cross–platform compatibility to enable learners to view them on mobile devices.

9. Inclusivity

The Canvas course provides a safe, positive, and inclusive higher learning environment characterised by the free exchange of diverse ideas, skills and cultural perspectives.

10. Copyright, Privacy and Security

The Canvas course models good copyright, privacy and security practices.