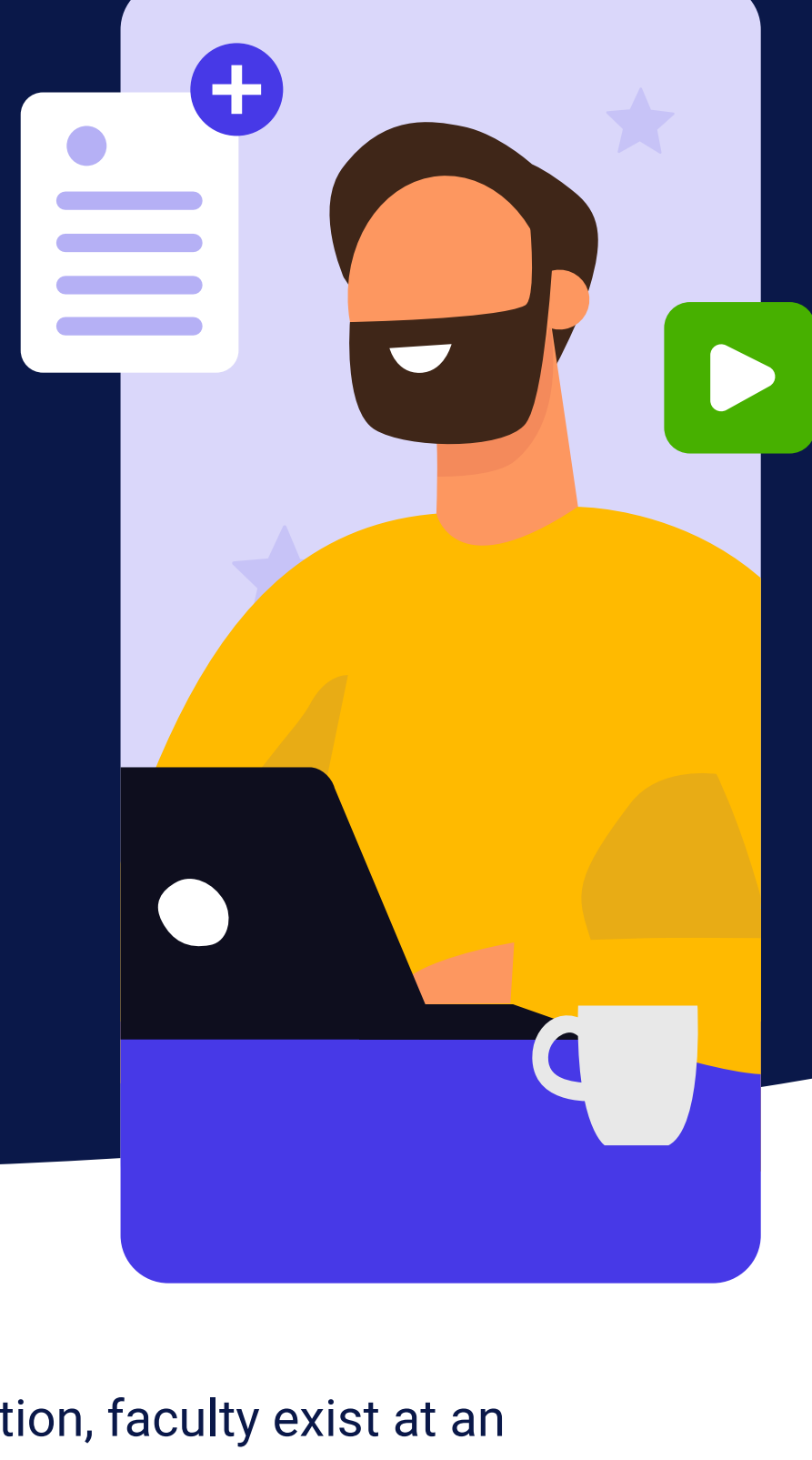


Four Reasons Faculty Choose Hybrid Learning

And Why Higher Education Institutions Should Too



With the rapid evolution of technology in higher education, faculty exist at an intersection of traditional education methods and **future-oriented enhancements to the classroom**. As hybrid classrooms—mixing both in-person delivery with synchronous and asynchronous online delivery—continue to become the norm for many institutions, **what do faculty think?** And what are the top benefits faculty can experience in hybrid academic settings?

The Times Higher Education team spoke to over 600 faculty members in 15 countries—from the Americas to Australasia—to gain an understanding of their experiences with online and hybrid learning. This infographic is based on [that report](#).

Faculty prefer hybrid learning

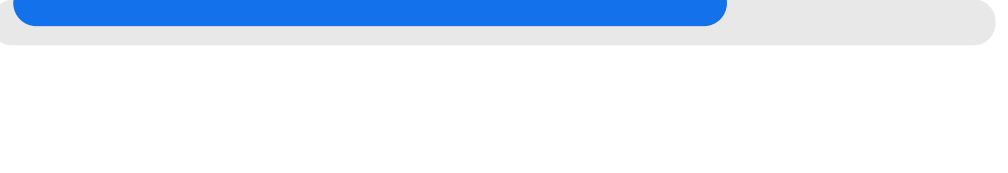


Although faculty still see the value of in-person learning environments, a majority see **hybrid instruction as their preferred method of teaching**.

66% say hybrid instruction is their preferred method of teaching



71% want to create a more engaging online environment for their students



Why Faculty prefer hybrid instruction

1 Expanded access to resources

When constrained to a physical space, **faculty are only able to provide resources they can bring to the classroom itself**.

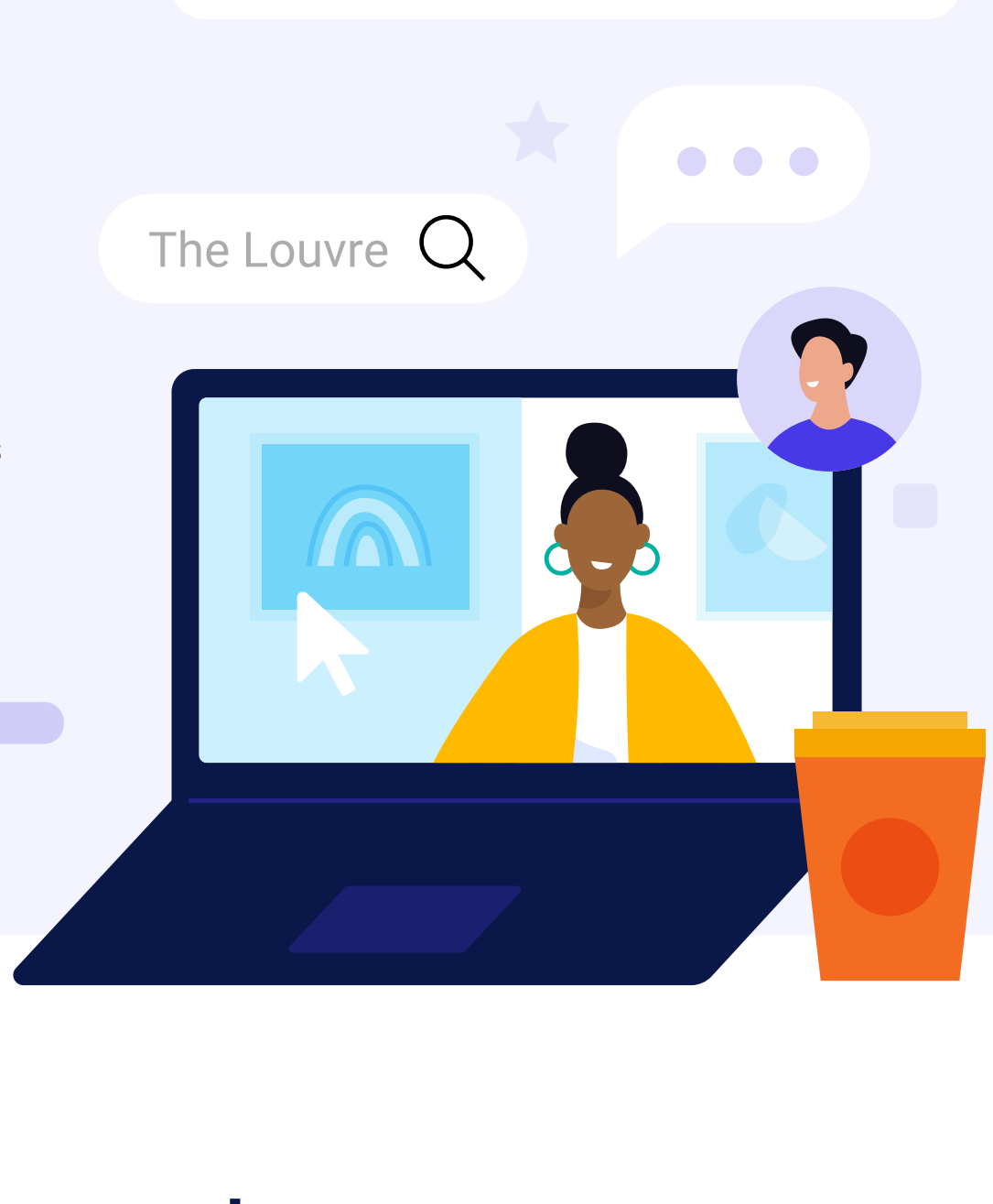
Hybrid classrooms enable instructors to bring in expert guest lecturers via video conferencing and share unique online experiences—like virtual museum tours—expanding learning opportunities beyond the physical classroom.

42% say one of the biggest advantages is easier access to guest lecturers and academics who are not geographically close



“Preparing our students, no matter where they come from, for a digital future is absolutely pivotal. We see that as a critical dimension of the whole package that we offer across in-person, online and hybrid.”

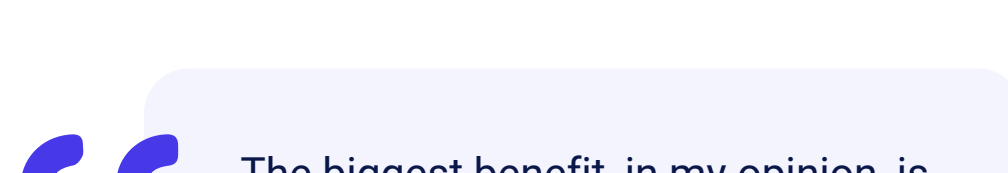
- Principal Lecturer, United Kingdom



2 Self-paced learning and easy access

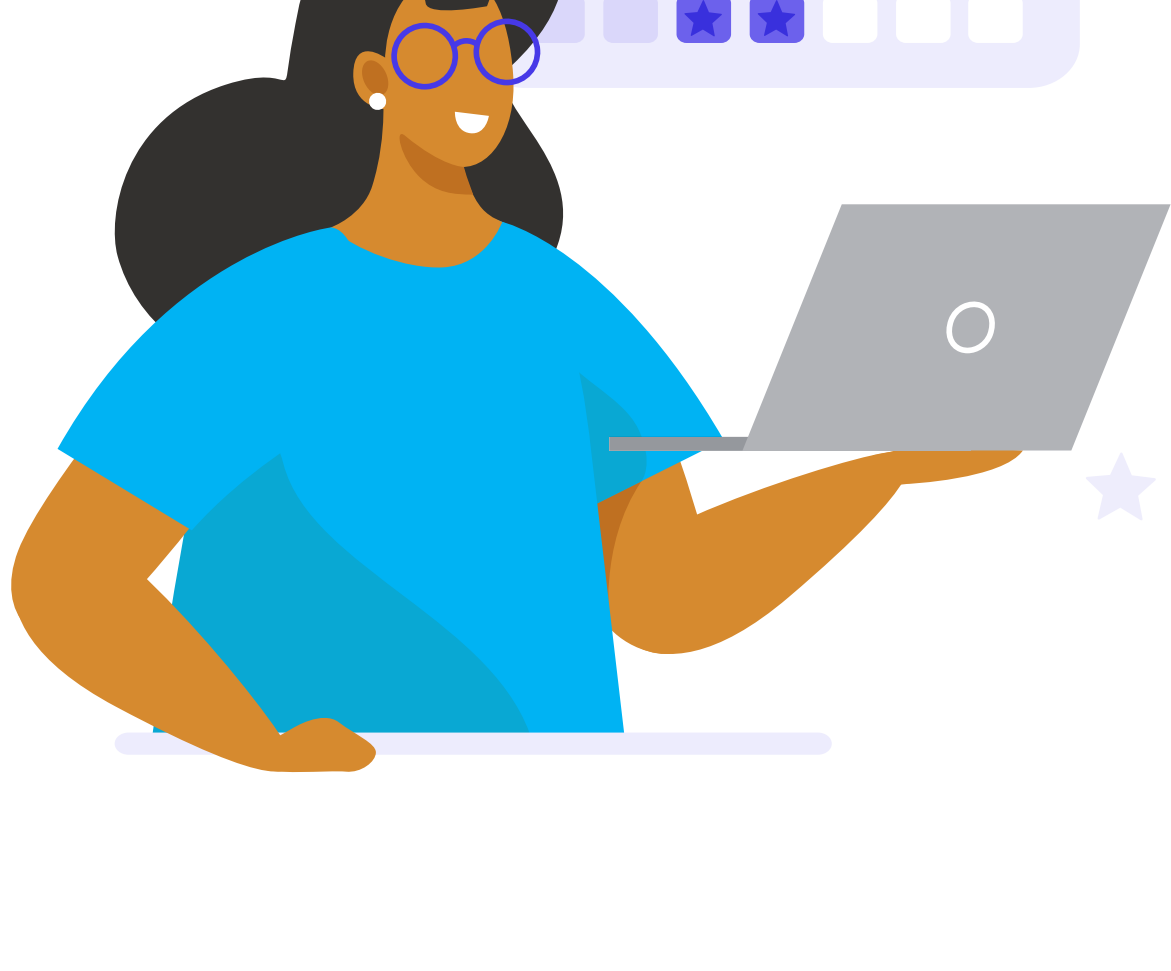
Faculty often face the constraint of a fixed time and location for learning in solely physical classrooms. Hybrid classrooms offer flexibility with synchronous or asynchronous learning, benefiting nontraditional students managing family or work obligations, and keeping all students on track, even when absent due to illness or other constraints.

42% cite the advantage of students learning at their own pace, accessing lectures flexibly



“The biggest benefit, in my opinion, is that we can reach people who could not otherwise afford to come to our university in-person to take the course. Online and hybrid instruction is one of the tools to make education a little bit more accessible.”

- Adjunct Professor, Brazil



3 Collaboration across distances

A hybrid classroom setup enables faculty to incorporate speakers and resources globally, while students benefit from diverse perspectives worldwide. Discussions on social issues and historical events gain depth in more diverse, location-independent classrooms.

“I personally prefer a hybrid approach. It helps to address the diversity of students and there are a lot of possibilities to widen access through a hybrid approach.”

- Associate Professor, India



4 Widening access to higher education

Students who otherwise may not be able to continue their education—whether due to scheduling conflicts during traditional class times or being physically distanced from an institution that offers a highly tailored program necessary for their professional aspirations—can attend class and obtain the degree they need.

27% say one of the main advantages to hybrid instruction is widening access to higher education



“It opens the world up and allows us to give students access to colleagues who live halfway around the world in another environment – people that we may not be able to afford to fly in. That aspect of online and hybrid learning has been fantastic.”

- Professor & Head of School, Australia



Faculty need support to succeed

While most faculty surveyed favor hybrid teaching methods, the importance of organizational support for effective instruction cannot be overstated. There's a notable variance in the perceived digital skills of teaching staff, indicating **a need for comprehensive resources and training opportunities** dedicated to delivering online and hybrid learning instruction.

31%

rated the digital skills of teaching staff at their institution at a score of <7/10

57%

believe their university supports faculty with the necessary training to successfully deliver online and hybrid instruction

Looking forward

As technology transforms education, faculty support becomes crucial for online and hybrid coursework. With rising student flexibility needs and faculty preference for virtual platforms, hybrid education is now a permanent fixture in higher education. **Choosing the right tools empowers faculty to navigate hybrid models effectively, meeting student demands and embracing virtual platforms.**

