

Four Reasons Students Choose Hybrid Learning

And Why Higher Education Institutions Should Too



Higher education across the globe has seen **a significant shift towards online learning** and remote instruction due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While most institutions have resumed in-person classes, many continue to offer hybrid or fully online instruction. **But what do students think?** And what do their attitudes mean for the future of hybrid and remote learning and working?

The Times Higher Education team spoke to almost 700 students and ran qualitative focus groups across 15 countries—from the Americas to Australasia—to gain an understanding of their experiences with online and hybrid learning. This infographic is based on **[their report](#)**.

Students prefer hybrid learning



While many students still value in-person learning, they overwhelmingly prefer a mix of in-person and online delivery.

78% 78% want up to half of their studies to be delivered online.



63% 63% say a mix of in-person and online delivery is their ideal learning experience.



Why are students choosing hybrid?

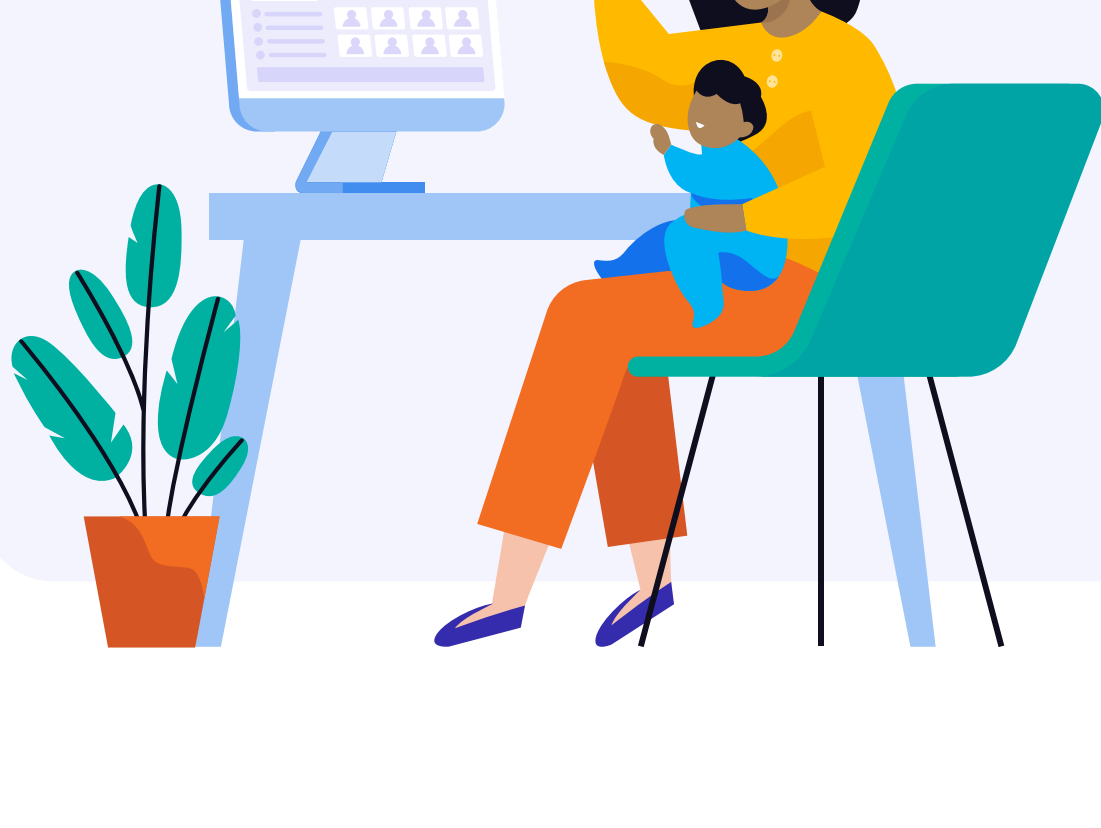
1 Flexibility

Students want more freedom to learn how and when they want, and at the pace they choose.

Hybrid learning offers this flexibility by allowing them to select the delivery that best fits their situation or preference—helping learners balance their studies with work, family, friends, and other commitments.

“My ideal experience would depend on the type of class it was. For example, if it is a more practical, dynamic lesson, then I would want in-person interaction with group activities...for theory classes, I would give the option of connecting online live, but also the option of simply being able to watch recordings of them later.”

- Undergraduate Business and Management Student, Spain



65% 65% of students say the flexibility to choose remote or in-person delivery based on the course is one of the biggest advantages of hybrid learning.



2 Accessibility

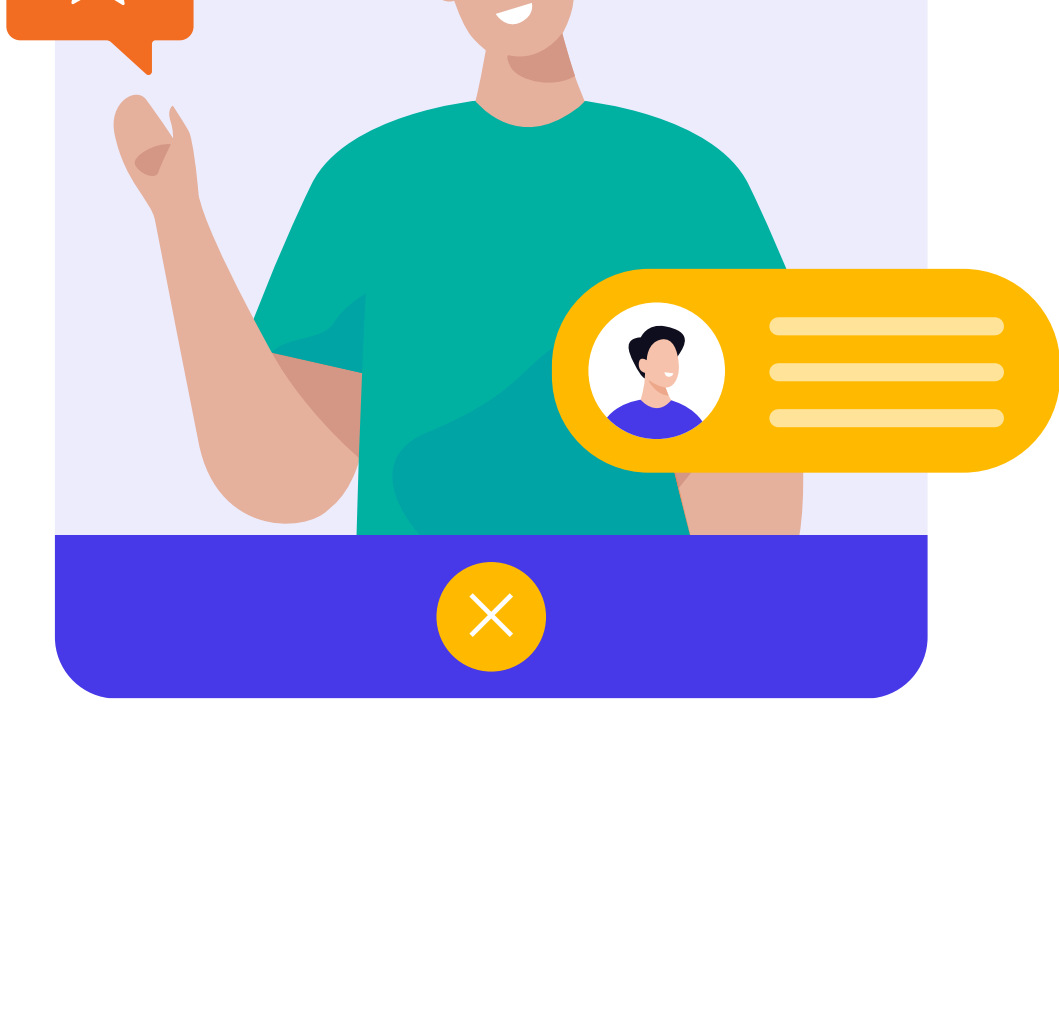
Hybrid learning helps education be more accessible. Students for whom learning on campus can be challenging—due to circumstances such as proximity to campus, disabilities, or preferred learning styles—can participate in the learning modality that serves them best. Online resources can also help students who struggle with in-person classes or need additional support.

51% 51% of students say the ability to view lecture recordings after class is the biggest advantage of online learning.



“I would describe an ideal learning experience to be accessible anywhere and the content should be downloadable. This is to allow students to study at their own pace and convenience.”

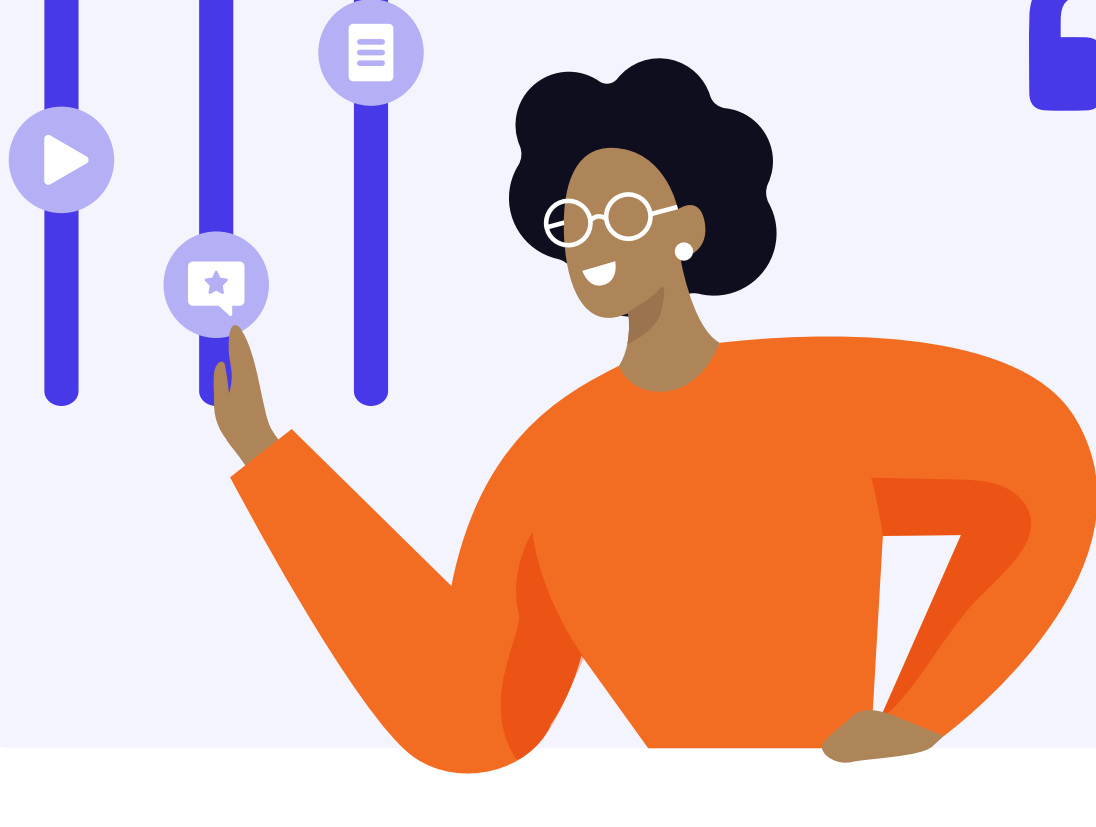
- Undergraduate Accounting and Finance Student, India



3 Personalization

Hybrid learning can offer students greater control over their learning experiences.

With hybrid offerings, students can build a personalized learning path that offers flexibility to engage with courses based on their goals and preferences for learning.



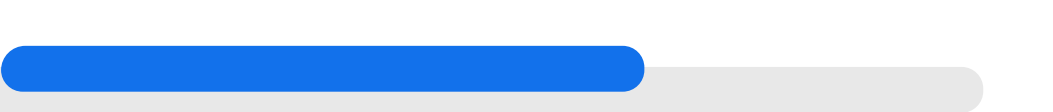
“I have always been a shy student in the classroom so I’m reluctant to ask questions by physically raising my hand but I feel comfortable messaging the instructor through my device. It helps ensure more participation in the classroom.”

- Undergraduate Law Student, India

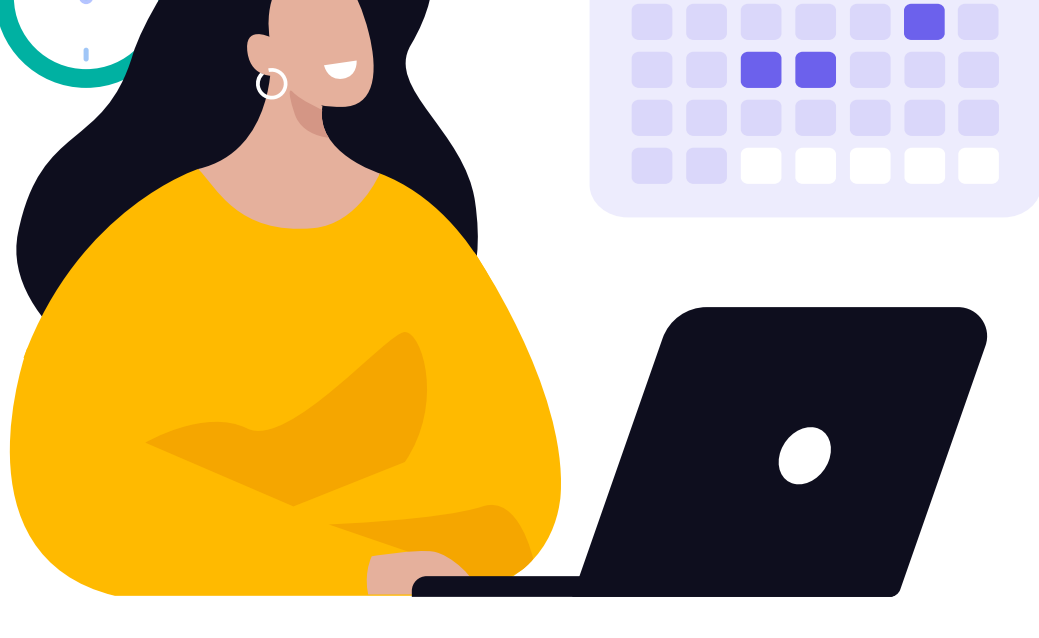
4 Preparedness for the Future

Research from McKinsey Global Institute estimates that up to a quarter of the workforce in advanced economies have the potential to work remotely three to five days a week.¹ Hybrid learning prepares students for hybrid work, helping them to hone their skills in digital literacy, time management, and self-directed learning.

64% 64% of students feel hybrid learning is more reflective of the modern workplace than entirely in-person study.



76% 76% of students expect their future career will involve working remotely at least some of the time.



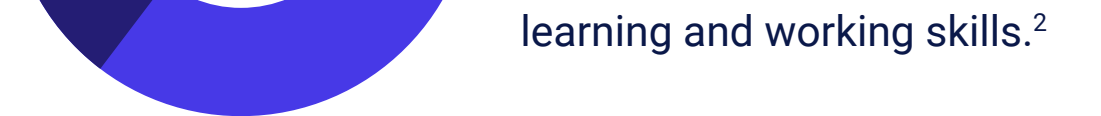
Students are choosing universities that offer hybrid learning options

Students value the flexibility and accessibility that hybrid methods bring to their studies; they appreciate how hybrid learning can be used to better align with their preferred learning styles; and they feel that the hybrid mix of face-to-face and online instruction is more representative of the modern workplace they will one day enter. For these reasons, **students are choosing schools that offer hybrid learning options.**

61% 61% of students surveyed feel it is important for a prospective university to deliver at least some of its teaching online.



62% 62% of college students say they would be more likely to enroll in a degree program that helps with career readiness, including building remote learning and working skills.²



Looking ahead

Against this backdrop, the focus is now on optimizing the online learning experience. Selecting the right technology, providing support resources to both students and educators, and training faculty on effective online learning pedagogy are all ways colleges and universities can invest in the hybrid modalities that students are choosing.

See how Class provides best-in-class digital live learning experiences.

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Sources

- ¹ *The future of work after COVID-19*. McKinsey Global Institute. (2021, February 21). Retrieved March 30, 2022 from [https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/future-of-work/the-future-of-work-after-covid-19/#/](https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/future-of-work/the-future-of-work-after-covid-19#/)
- ² Docking, Dr. Jeffrey R. (2022, May 25). *The Future of Higher Education Is the Hybrid Campus*. Campus Technology. Retrieved March 30, 2022 from <https://campustechnology.com/articles/2022/05/26/the-future-of-higher-education-is-the-hybrid-campus.aspx>