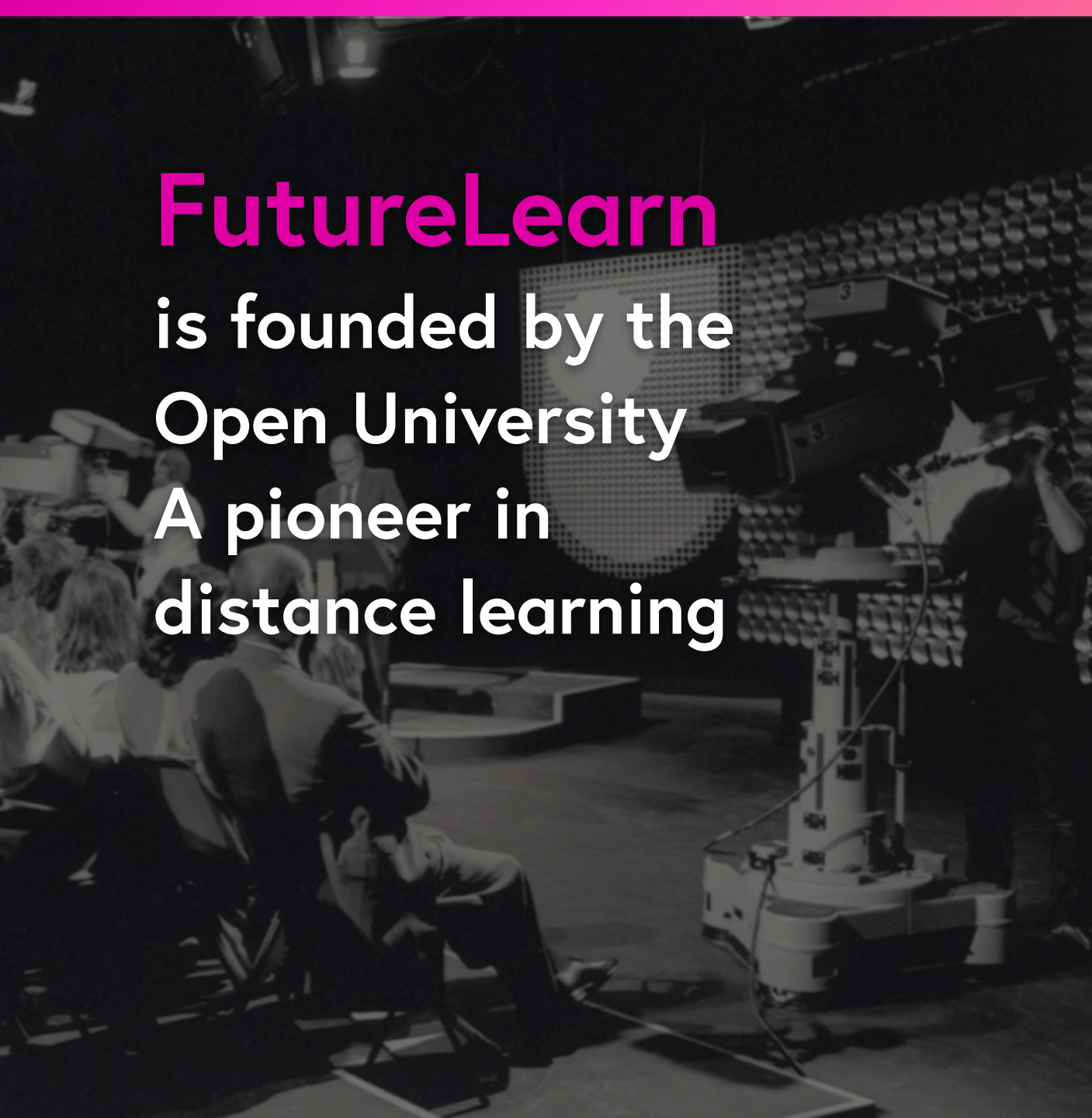


A white icon of a staircase with three steps, positioned to the left of the text.

# Future Learn

May 2016  
Mark Lester



# FutureLearn

is founded by the  
Open University  
A pioneer in  
distance learning

80+ World Class partners

Designed and built by experts from  
online, mobile and media

Effective learning design embedded  
in all aspects of the platform

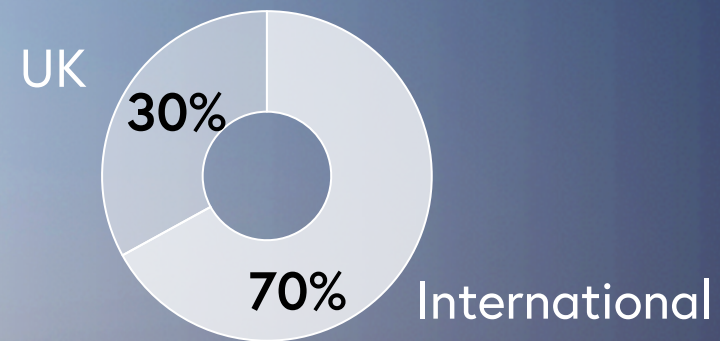
Uniquely designed for multi-platform  
use - mobile first

Incorporates the best of the social web  
with in built social architecture



**8+ million course sign ups**  
**3.7 million registered learners**  
**from 200+ countries**

A truly global  
and diverse  
audience



18% Under 26

40% 26-45 years

28% 46-65 years

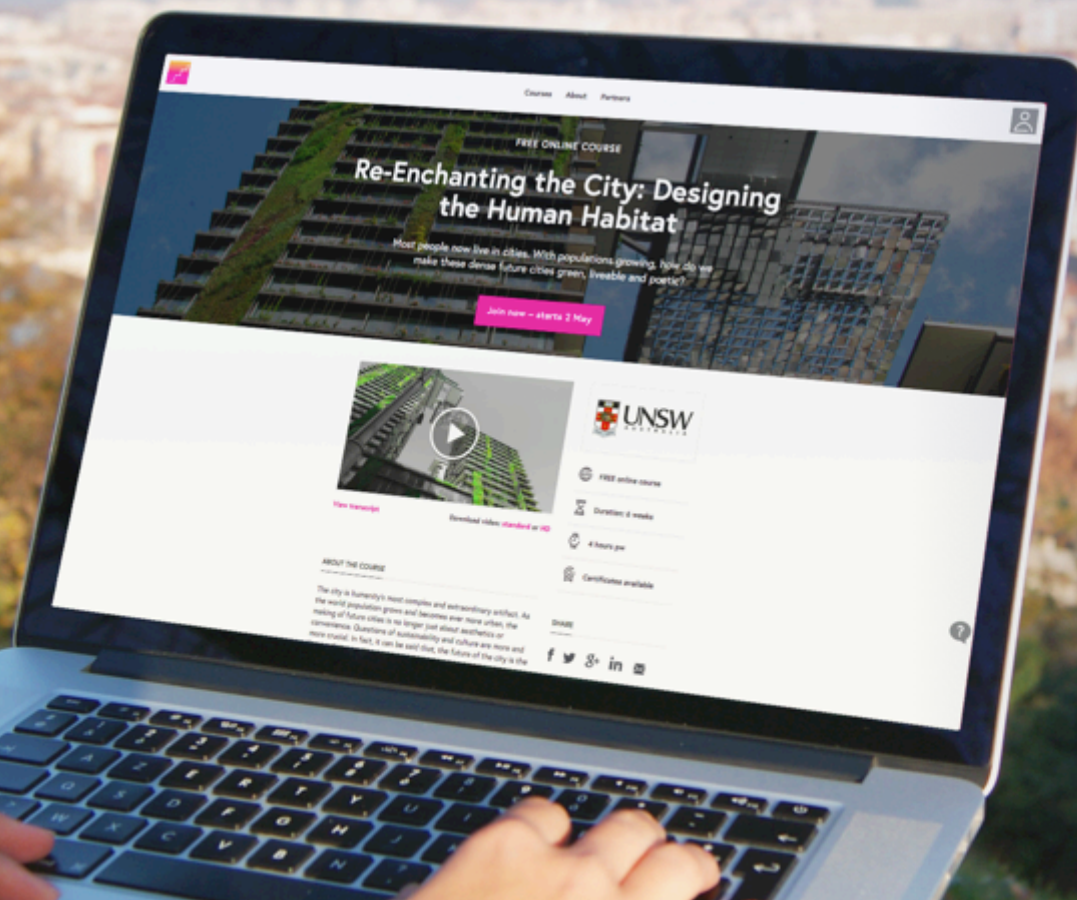
11% Over 65



Female



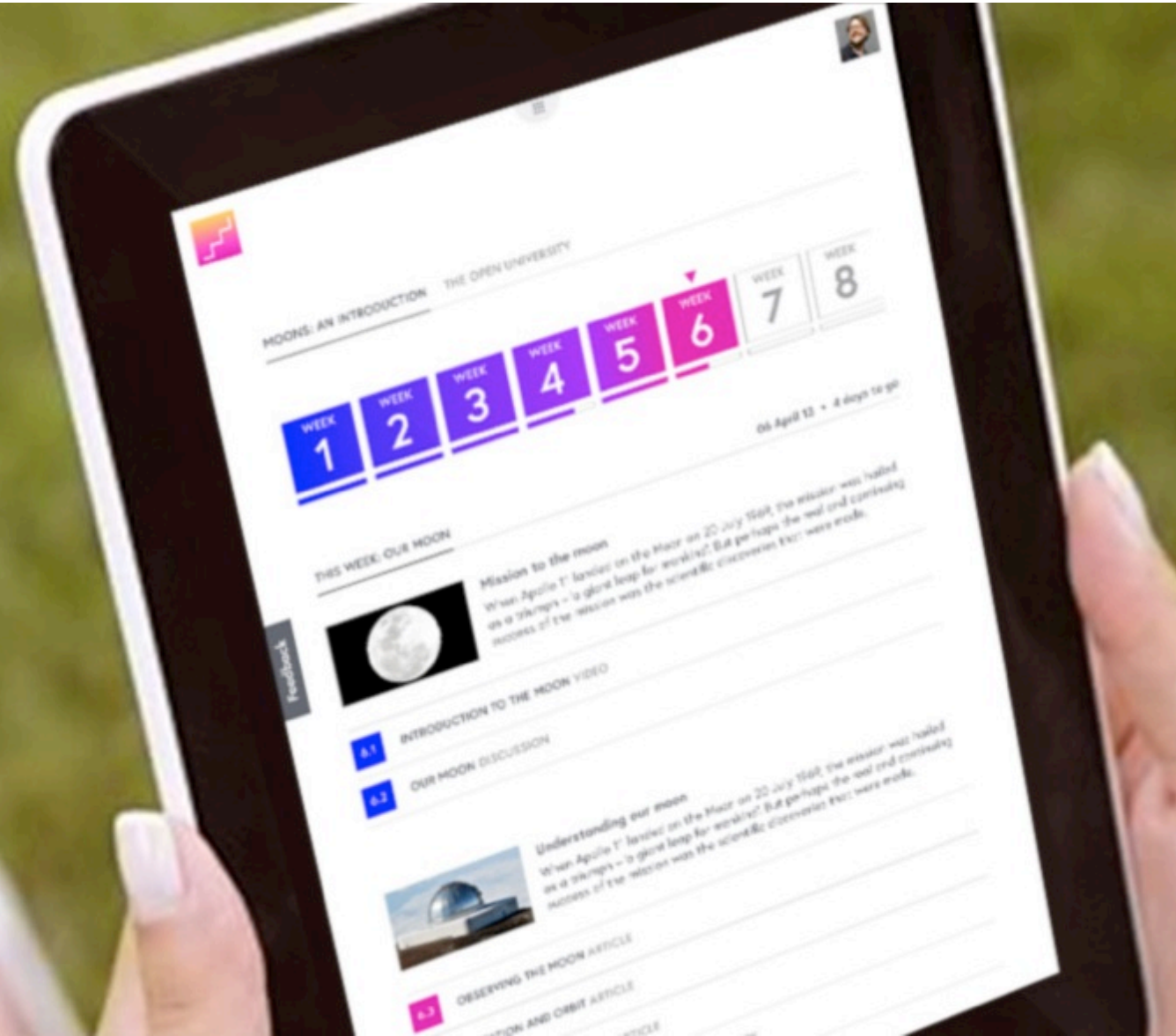
Male



Simple, delightful,  
flexible user experience

An innovative  
social learning approach

High quality content,  
building on the best of the web



# Contextual commenting & provoking conversation

The image shows a tablet displaying a video player and a comment section. The video player shows a man (Jonathan Slinger) sitting in a chair, talking to another man (Professor Michael Dobson) who is also sitting in a chair. The video is titled "What it feels like to play Hamlet" and is from the University of Birmingham. The video player has a progress bar at 0:00 and a volume icon. To the right of the video player is a comment section with several comments. The comments are from Matt Walton, Alan Jowett, Mike Healey, Georgina Lucas [Mentor], and Jacqueline Holdsworth. The comments discuss the complexities of the character Hamlet and the actor's experience. The comment section has a "COMMENTS" header and a "Most liked" filter. The video player has a "Feedback" button on the left side. The top left corner of the tablet screen shows a "[BETA]" label and a logo. The top right corner shows a user profile picture.

[BETA]

SHAKESPEARE'S HAMLET UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM 5.2

Feedback

0:00

## What it feels like to play Hamlet 162

Jonathan Slinger, who played Hamlet in the 2013 Royal Shakespeare Company production, discusses with Professor Michael Dobson what it feels like to play Hamlet.

© University of Birmingham

162 Mark as complete

PREVIOUS NEXT

### COMMENTS

Everyone | [Most liked](#)

**Matt Walton**  
Leave a comment... (plain text only, links will be auto-linked)  
0/1200  
Post

**Alan Jowett** [Follow](#) 03 FEB  
Jonathan talks for nine minutes about the complexities of the character and how it needs a range of acting skills. Shakespeare sums up this complexity saying: "What a piece of work is man!"  
[Like 17](#) [Reply](#)

**Mike Healey** [Follow](#) 10 FEB  
I have not seen Jonathan Slinger's 'Hamlet' but I have worked with actors for much of my professional life and I fully understand the attraction of a part like Hamlet.  
The problem is that plenitude (of layers) does not necessarily equate to resolution (of character).  
'Hamlet', he says, 'is a playground' for an actor but what this character lacks (if I dare speak in such terms of this amazing play) is any discernible core.  
There is an image in Ibsen's 'Peer Gynt' where a person is said to be like an onion - multi-layered but, once you have peeled away each layer, nothing is left.  
Could this, I wonder, be true of Hamlet?  
[Like 4](#)

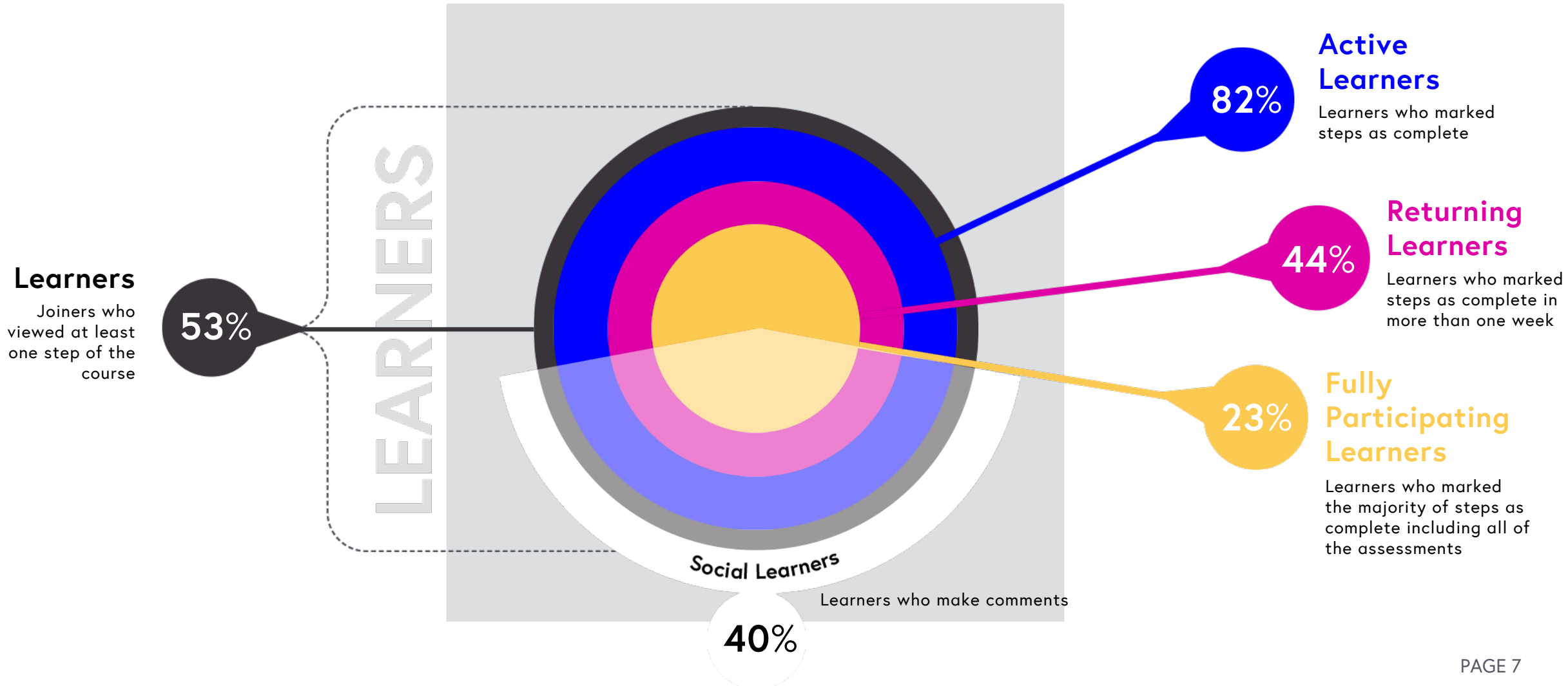
**Georgina Lucas [Mentor]** [Follow](#) 10 FEB  
It's a wonderfully evocative image! What do you and others think?  
[Like](#)

**Jacqueline Holdsworth** [Follow](#) 10 FEB  
Strip away all the layers of any person and what do you expect? And why should Hamlet be any different? In some ways this question sums up our projections and fantasies about other people and why we feel disappointed when we have peeled away all the wrappings to find there is little more. Rather than being an onion, I think

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# Supporting International Collaborations



# 51

UK partners



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM



The British Museum

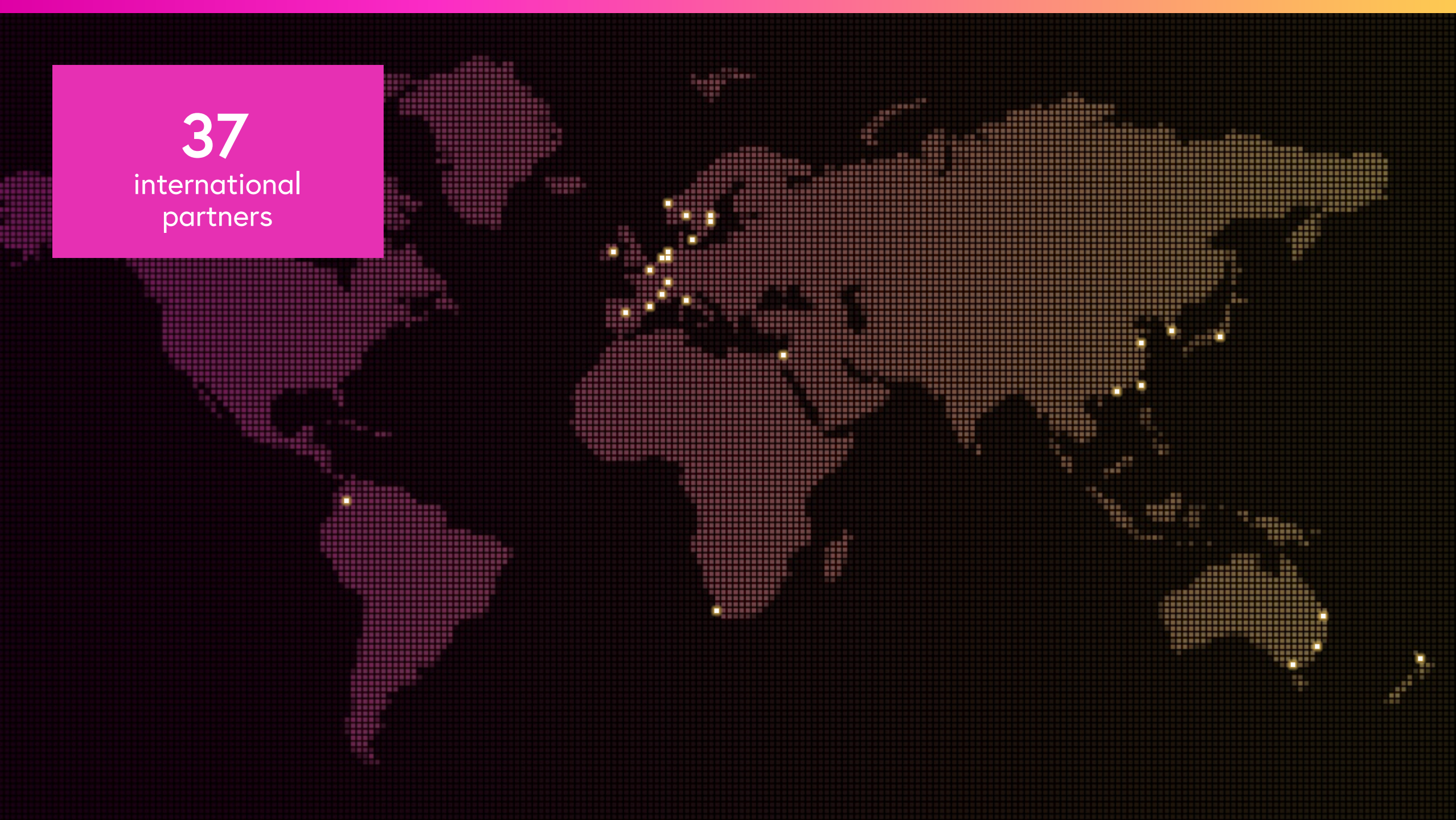


Goldsmiths  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



37

international  
partners



# 37

international  
partners



# UNIVERSITY-TO-UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS COLLABORATIONS

KCL AND SHJT have collaborated on a MOOC on Understanding Drugs and Addiction



FREE ONLINE COURSE

## 了解药物以及成瘾

成瘾是如何形成的？戒掉瘾症和避免染上瘾症的最好方式是什么？参加这门免费的在线课程，探索这些关键问题。

Join now – started 25 Apr

A dark, top-down photograph of various medical and pharmaceutical items including a syringe, pills, a mortar and pestle, and a small pile of food, serving as the background for the course banner.

[View transcript](#)

[Download video: standard](#) or [HD](#)



# MULTI-UNIVERSITY COURSE COLLABORATIONS

U21 is creating a shared learning experience using FutureLearn for its 2M students



# UNIVERSITAS



Universitas 21 is the leading global network of research-intensive universities, working together to foster global citizenship and institutional innovation through research-inspired teaching and learning, student mobility, connecting our students and staff, and wider advocacy for internationalization.



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University of Queensland  
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## Sweden

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## The Netherlands

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## United Kingdom

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University of Edinburgh  
University of Glasgow  
University of Nottingham



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University of Connecticut  
University of Maryland  
The Ohio State University

## COLLABORATION WITH GLOBAL NETWORKS OF TOP ACADEMICS AND INSTITUTIONS

FutureLearn can bring together networks of top academics to create courses



The Complex Systems Digital Campus (CS-DC) is an international network of individuals and more than 100 universities and institutions working together and sharing resources to promote research and education in complex systems science and in integrative sciences.

# Global Systems Science and Policy: an Introduction

Learn how Global Systems Science can inform and model the impact of social, economic, political and environmental policy making.

[Join now – starts 6 Jun](#)



[View transcript](#)      [Download video: standard or HD](#)



 **FREE** online course

 **Duration: 2 weeks**

 **2 hours pw**

The course card features a dark background with a blue network visualization. The title "Global Systems Science and Policy: an Introduction" is at the top. Below it is a subtitle and a pink "Join now" button. A video player thumbnail shows the text "GLOBAL SYSTEMS SCIENCE" with a play button. To the right of the video player are the logos of UNESCO and CS-DC. Below these are three rows of course details: "FREE online course" with a globe icon, "Duration: 2 weeks" with an hourglass icon, and "2 hours pw" with a clock icon. At the bottom left of the video player are links for "View transcript" and "Download video: standard or HD".

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EDSA is an EU project to support Data Science inc: OU, KTH, Southampton, Tu/e, ODI, Fraunhofer



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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

Learn the power of Linked Data, explore how it's revolutionising the web and get to grips with it by writing queries in SPARQL.

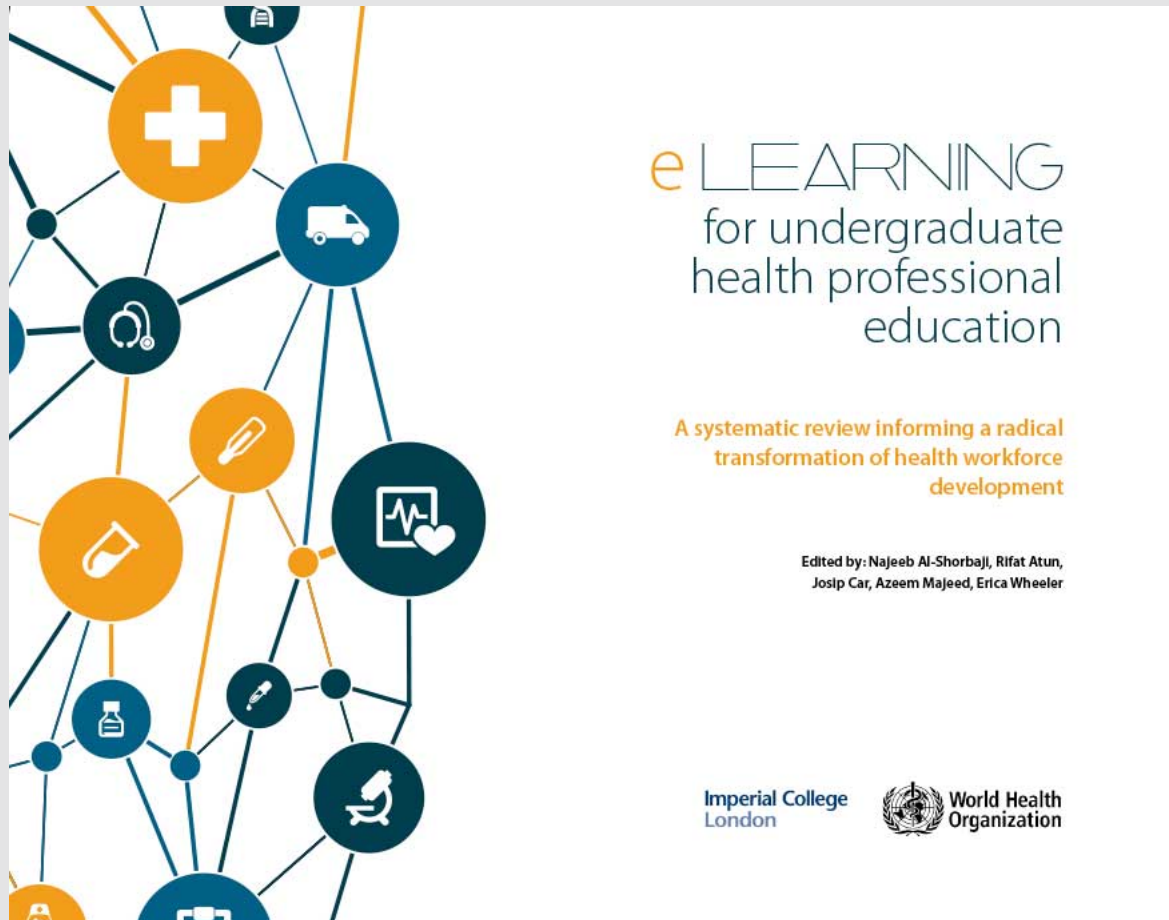
TBA 3 weeks 3 hours pw Certificate

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# TACKLE GLOBAL CHALLENGES – EXAMPLE HEALTHCARE SKILLS GAPS

FutureLearn removes the isolation and lack of discussion associated with elearning



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WHO & Imperial College, London, Jan 2015

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Traditional disadvantages of elearning reported by learners are: "lack of student-tutor interaction, feelings of isolation and lack of in-depth group discussion".

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# EMPLOYABILITY: UNIVERSITIES AND EMPLOYERS WORKING ON SOFT CREDENTIALS



INTRODUCTION TO  
**CYBER SECURITY**

13 OCTOBER

[Find out more](#)

A banner for a cyber security event. It features a man with glasses looking at a laptop screen in a dark room with other people's silhouettes in the background. The text "INTRODUCTION TO CYBER SECURITY" is at the top, "13 OCTOBER" is on the left, and a pink "Find out more" button is at the bottom left. A small logo is in the bottom right corner.

**MEDICINES ADHERENCE**

SUPPORTING PATIENTS WITH THEIR TREATMENT

25 AUGUST

[Find out more](#)

A banner for a medicines adherence event. It has a purple background with several yellow and orange pills. The text "MEDICINES ADHERENCE" is at the top, "SUPPORTING PATIENTS WITH THEIR TREATMENT" is below it, "25 AUGUST" is on the left, and a pink "Find out more" button is at the bottom left. A small logo is in the bottom right corner.

**INNOVATION**

THE KEY TO BUSINESS SUCCESS

15 SEPTEMBER

**BUSINESS CHANGE PEOPLE INNOVATION**

[Find out more](#)

A banner for an innovation event. It has a dark purple background with 3D block letters that read "BUSINESS CHANGE PEOPLE INNOVATION". The text "INNOVATION THE KEY TO BUSINESS SUCCESS" is at the top, "15 SEPTEMBER" is on the left, and a pink "Find out more" button is at the bottom left. A small logo is in the bottom right corner.

**DISCOVERING BUSINESS**

IN SOCIETY

8 SEPTEMBER

[Find out more](#)

A banner for a business event. It shows three people sitting around a round table in a modern office setting, looking at a laptop. The text "DISCOVERING BUSINESS IN SOCIETY" is at the top, "8 SEPTEMBER" is on the left, and a pink "Find out more" button is at the bottom left. A small logo is in the bottom right corner.

# WIDENING PARTICIPATION

...our partnership with FutureLearn has enabled us to shape a unique learning experience and access a huge audience for our widening participation work... [attracting] learners from a WP background who otherwise would likely struggle to navigate their way successfully through the massively competitive application process...



The University of Sheffield

A white icon of a staircase with three steps, positioned to the left of the text.

**Future  
Learn**