## Maintaining accessible Learntech standards post Covid-19

1. **Background**

With the rapid move to Emergency Remote Teaching (ERT), staff have had to respond to an unprecedented increase in the use of online systems to support students with their learning, teaching and assessment. As we continue to support students in this way we may need to be reminded of legal obligations to ensure that we are not unduly disadvantaging students who may need material to be presented in particular formats. (e.g. the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 which is already in force.) This document will cover some of the areas which may need additional focus.

1. **Material hosted on NILE**

Students will access much of their course material through NILE. This has a tool (Ally) which allows tutors to check the accessibility of their online content – see <https://askus.northampton.ac.uk/Learntech/faq/189667>. Ally provides guidance on how to improve the accessibility of most uploaded material. It will also provide students with the ability to download alternative formats of material according to their own preferences.

Staff are reminded that assessments which may have been changed as a result of remote working should be checked to ensure that students are able to complete them without any issues.

1. **Videos hosted in Kaltura**

Kaltura provides staff and students with the ability to create and stream video and audio content. All videos which are uploaded into Kaltura will have machine captions allocated to them which you are able to manually edit to correct errors as necessary - <https://askus.northampton.ac.uk/Learntech/faq/189575>

1. **Webinars in Collaborate**

With the regular use of Collaborate to engage with students, staff are reminded that where possible sessions should be recorded to allow students to replay material which they did not initially understand or to catchup with events which they were unable to attend. Please refer to information sent out on Unify - <https://unify.northampton.ac.uk/Article.aspx?articleid=gGHPpOYriEJRM0O%2B%2BP23nVGA2hU%3D&channelid=45>

For more information on recordings then please see the following guides:

Record your Collaborate sessions:  <https://libguides.northampton.ac.uk/learntech/staff/nile-guides/blackboard-collaborate#s-lg-box-15125423>

Access Collaborate recordings: <https://libguides.northampton.ac.uk/learntech/students/nile-guides/blackboard-collaborate#s-lg-box-15127159>  (this guide is also available to students)

1. **Avoid unlicensed software**

The University takes care to procure accessible tools which provide students with required functionality in most case. The use of unlicensed software increases the number of tools which students are required to learn and change to their required needs. There may also be risks in using software such as data protection. More information is available at: <https://unify.northampton.ac.uk/Article.aspx?articleid=dOLvtIkOp7B8VhBRd1s17fb9qYs%3D&channelid=45>

1. **Conclusion**

The list above is not exhaustive but provides prompts in some key areas that staff should consider. If further discussion is needed on any of these points then staff should discuss these with their allocated Learning Technologist:

<https://libguides.northampton.ac.uk/learntech/staff/nile-help/who-is-my-learning-technologist>

Also see: <https://coronavirus.jiscinvolve.org/wp/2020/03/26/keeping-accessibility-in-mind/>

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