

Jisc Edtech Challenge

a virtual learning environment without a screen

Student health signals

Health + Content + Context - Student health signals, trigger appropriate content

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Description

Virtual learning environments of the future could maximise the effective use of content for context.

Starting with the principle that all devices will be connected seamlessly and know the context of what the student is doing at any given time, appropriate course content could be “dripped” seamlessly into students’ schedules. Health information from a students’ smartwatch, coupled with social media signals could help determine that a student has had a good night's sleep and they are in the ideal temperament to take an assessment.

Knowing the students’ schedule, the VLE could trigger a short audio assessment to check module comprehension. This could be a simple Q & A delivered and recorded by a smart home assistant, while the student showers in the morning. Or perhaps, knowing that the student has a 25-minute commute could trigger the option to listen to an audio article or extract from an interview related to the course.

Social media signals could help determine the sort of mood or persuasion the student is in and make decisions on the most appropriate learning resources for the student’s particular frame of mind.

If the student is in proximity to others, an opportunity for group work may be generated, with the VLE providing the appropriate stimulus or discussion or assignment topic.

Knowing the students’ health context could help determine the most appropriate content. If the student is on campus, without any immediate items in their schedule, in the right temperament to be assessed and has access to the correct technology, a summative assessment may be generated.

The VLE would use all data available to generate opportunities for learning. Local opportunities that may help reinforce learning could be utilised. For example, an architectural student may be notified that there is an open public meeting to discuss new planning applications in the city centre. Prior to the meeting the VLE sends the proposed plans to the student’s smartphone, along with the most recent impact environmental survey and ask the student if they are interested in attending and if they would like to atomically confirm their RSVP.