

## Beyond 2020: Imagining the future of teaching in higher education

Can you imagine the learning experiences of a higher education student entering University beyond 2020? How will this student learn? Will the meaning of student engagement have changed? What will be the role of technologies in learning?

In this featured presentation, participants at THETA will step into the shoes of the 'student of the future'. Set in the year 2020, together we will imagine the future of teaching and learning in higher education, and predict the possible experiences of a 21st century learner.

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In this imagined world, the future of higher education is one that is engaged, connected and learner-centered. Massively open and global educational resources will be woven into context-specific curricula, and successfully married with physical and virtual enriching learning experiences in blended learning environments. Great teachers will facilitate student learning through exploration, interaction, problem-solving, immersion and demonstration. New technologies provide engaging, interactive and experiential learning that is socially connected and collaborative. Learning technologies have the potential to enrich learning experiences and to engage students in new and exciting ways.

Yet, when we step into the shoes of a 21st century learner, some important considerations will also arise. Will innovative approaches to learning really help students' to learn?

Will virtual worlds replace real worlds? Will learning experiences exist outside the cloud? Are new technologies just a distraction from learning? Will *everyone* have the same experience, or will some be 'left behind', or without access to the required technologies to learn? Will there be a student experience? Will open educational resources homogenise a higher education 'product', with just one excellent lecturing Professor per topic on a global scale?

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