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Harnessing technology for democratising international education through ODL

India-UK Higher Education Conference

19 September 2023

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The University of London in numbers

45,000
Transnational students

17
Federation Members in the University of London

2.8m
Moodle VLE users

190
Countries

210,000
Students in London

158
years since the University of London overseas examinations in Mauritius

1839
29 students received the first University of London degrees

1868
the first women in the UK admitted to special examinations at the University of London

1981
HRH Princess Anne becomes Chancellor

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The University of London Federation Members

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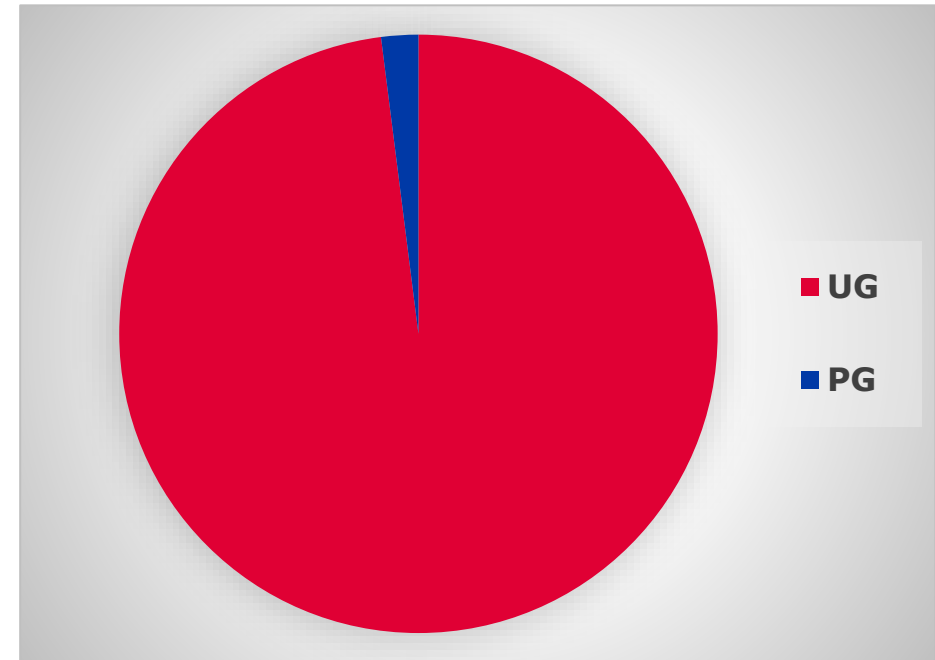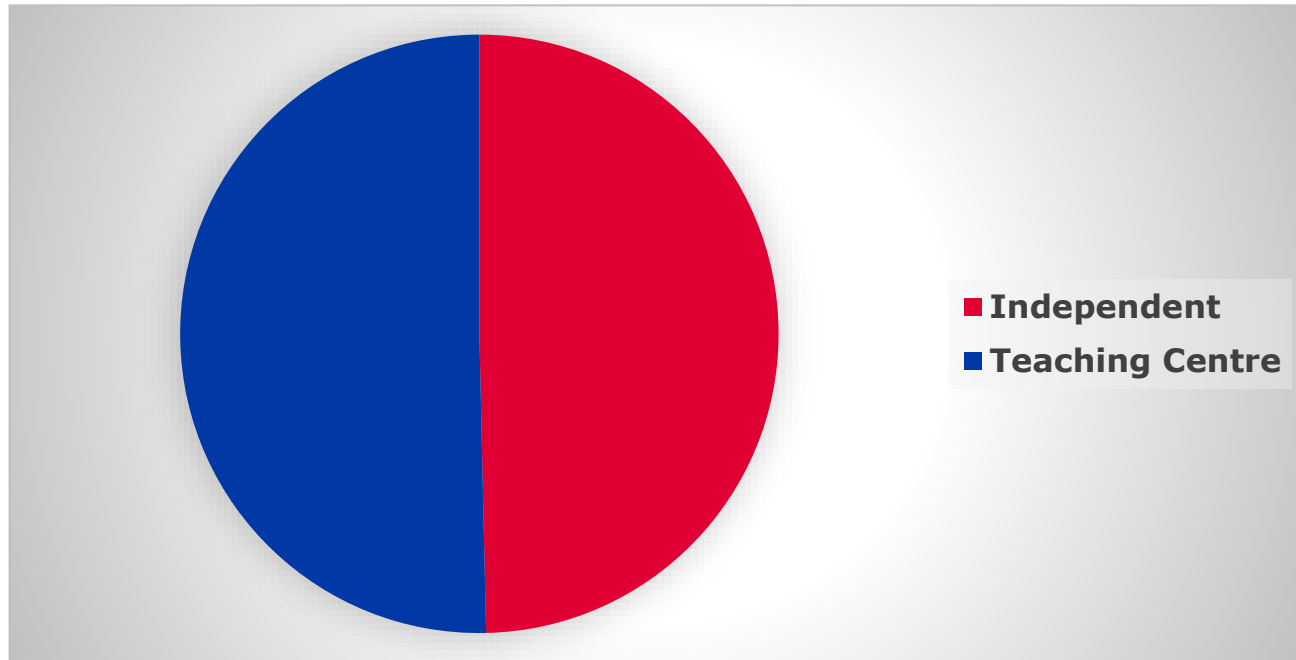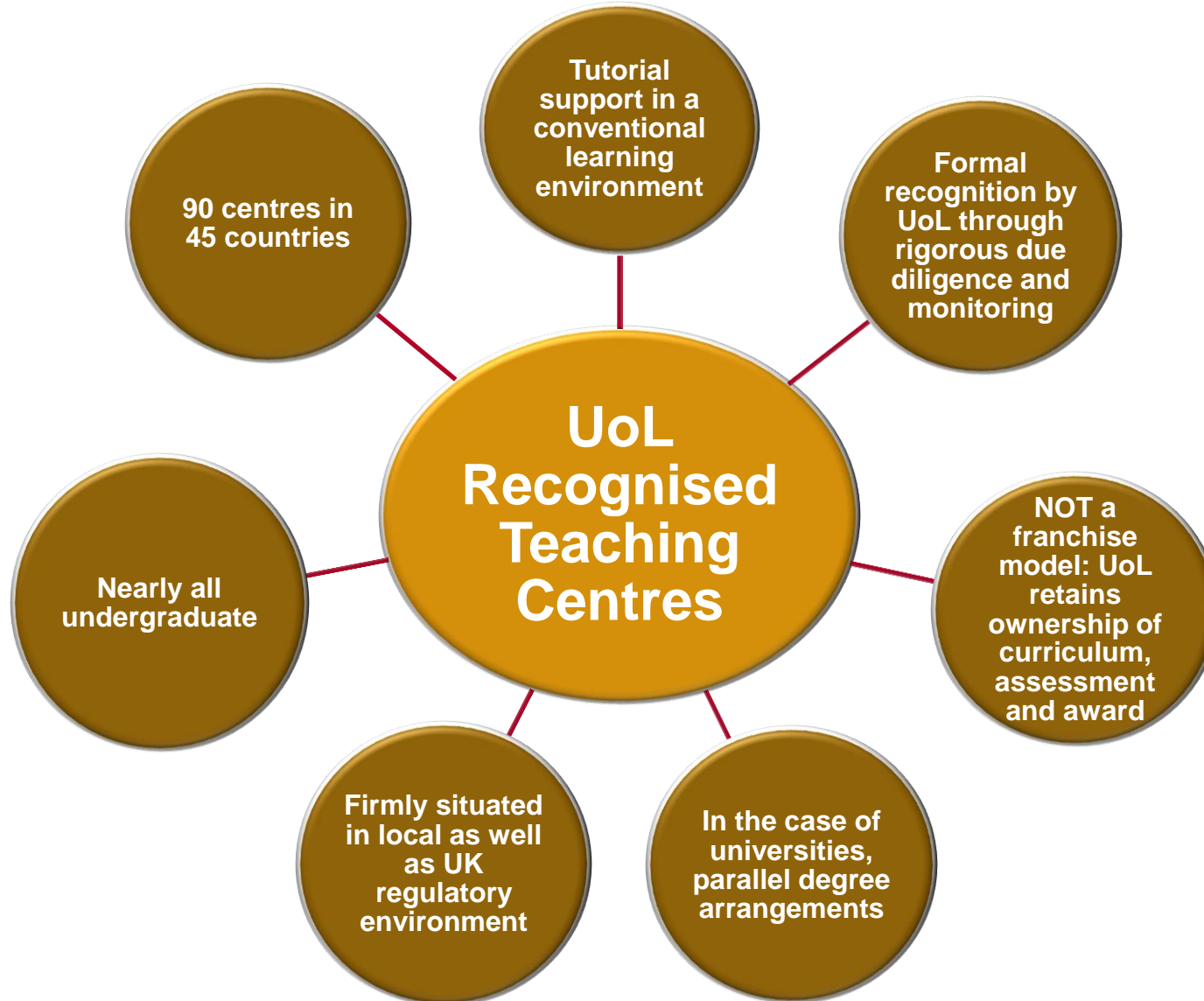
Technology with blended provision: our students study independently online, or with additional campus-based support at UoL Recognised Teaching Centres

Just over half our students are at Teaching Centres…   and nearly all our students at Teaching Centres are undergraduates

■ Independent
■ Teaching Centre

■ UG
■ PG

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Our Teaching Centres model

UoL Recognised Teaching Centres

- Tutorial support in a conventional learning environment
- Formal recognition by UoL through rigorous due diligence and monitoring
- NOT a franchise model: UoL retains ownership of curriculum, assessment and award
- In the case of universities, parallel degree arrangements
- Firmly situated in local as well as UK regulatory environment
- Nearly all undergraduate
- 90 centres in 45 countries

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UoL in India

- Longstanding engagement going back more than a century

- Notable alumni include Mahatma Gandhi, who registered for UCL (Law) in 1888-89, as well as the Bengali Nobel Laureate, writer and philosopher Rabindranath Tagore

- Currently there are 1,200 students in India taking University of London degrees

- Around half of these are undergraduates that receive academic and pastoral support from institutions in New Delhi and Mumbai.
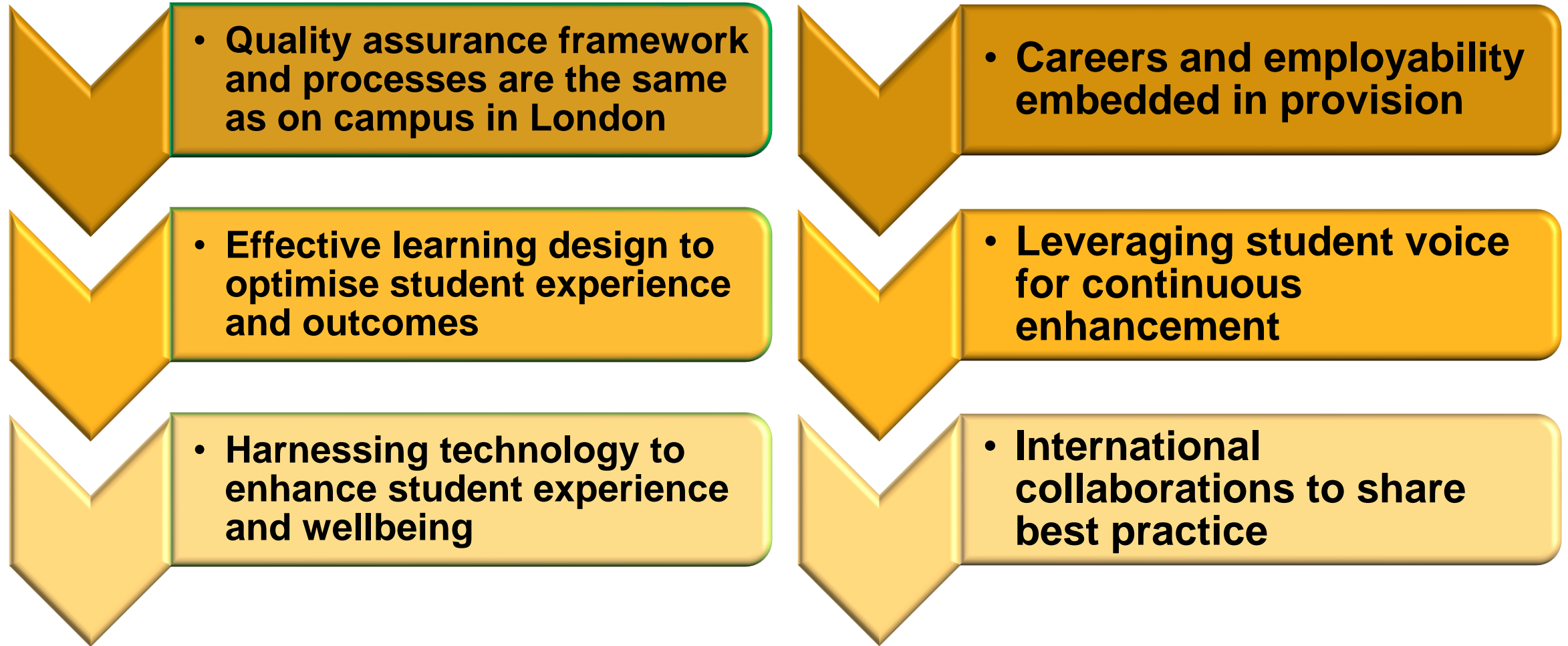
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Premise

Democratising international education through **ODL** cannot happen without:

- confidence in the **quality** and **standards** underpinning the provision;

- a focus on **student outcomes**, rather than mode of study

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Promoting high-quality HE through ODL: six pillars

- **Quality assurance framework and processes are the same as on campus in London**

- **Effective learning design to optimise student experience and outcomes**

- **Harnessing technology to enhance student experience and wellbeing**

- **Careers and employability embedded in provision**

- **Leveraging student voice for continuous enhancement**

- **International collaborations to share best practice**

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Our quality assurance framework: *the same for our transnational provision as it is in London*

Programme approval process

Programme annual monitoring process

Student feedback and engagement

External examiner process

Periodic programme review

Student complaints and academic appeals procedures

Academic misconduct procedures

Quality assurance schedules

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Effective learning design to optimise student experience and outcomes: content that is phased, purposeful and engaging

Clear module design

Acquisition Investigation Practice Production Discussion Collaboration
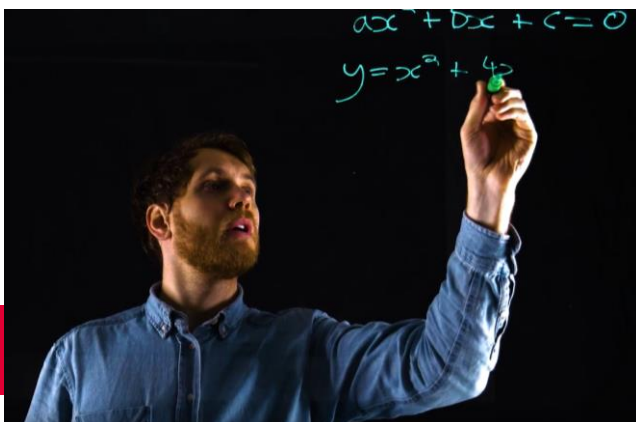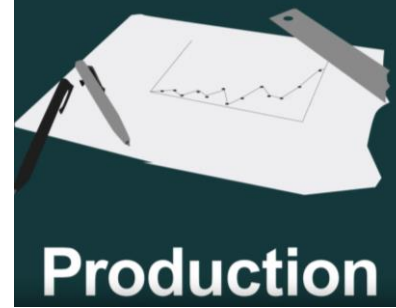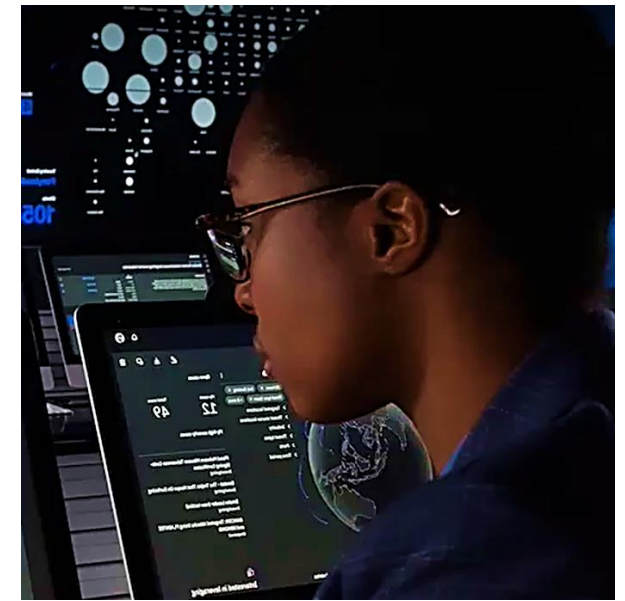
Harnessing technology to enhance student experience and wellbeing

Learning enhancement
- Digital induction and orientations
- Study skills
- Digital literacy skills
- Online learning self-efficacy resources
- Workplace readiness micro-courses

Wellbeing support
- Wellbeing hub
  - Sleep hygiene
  - Self-care
  - Resilience
  - Digital resources and exercises
  - Pastoral support

- TalkCampus

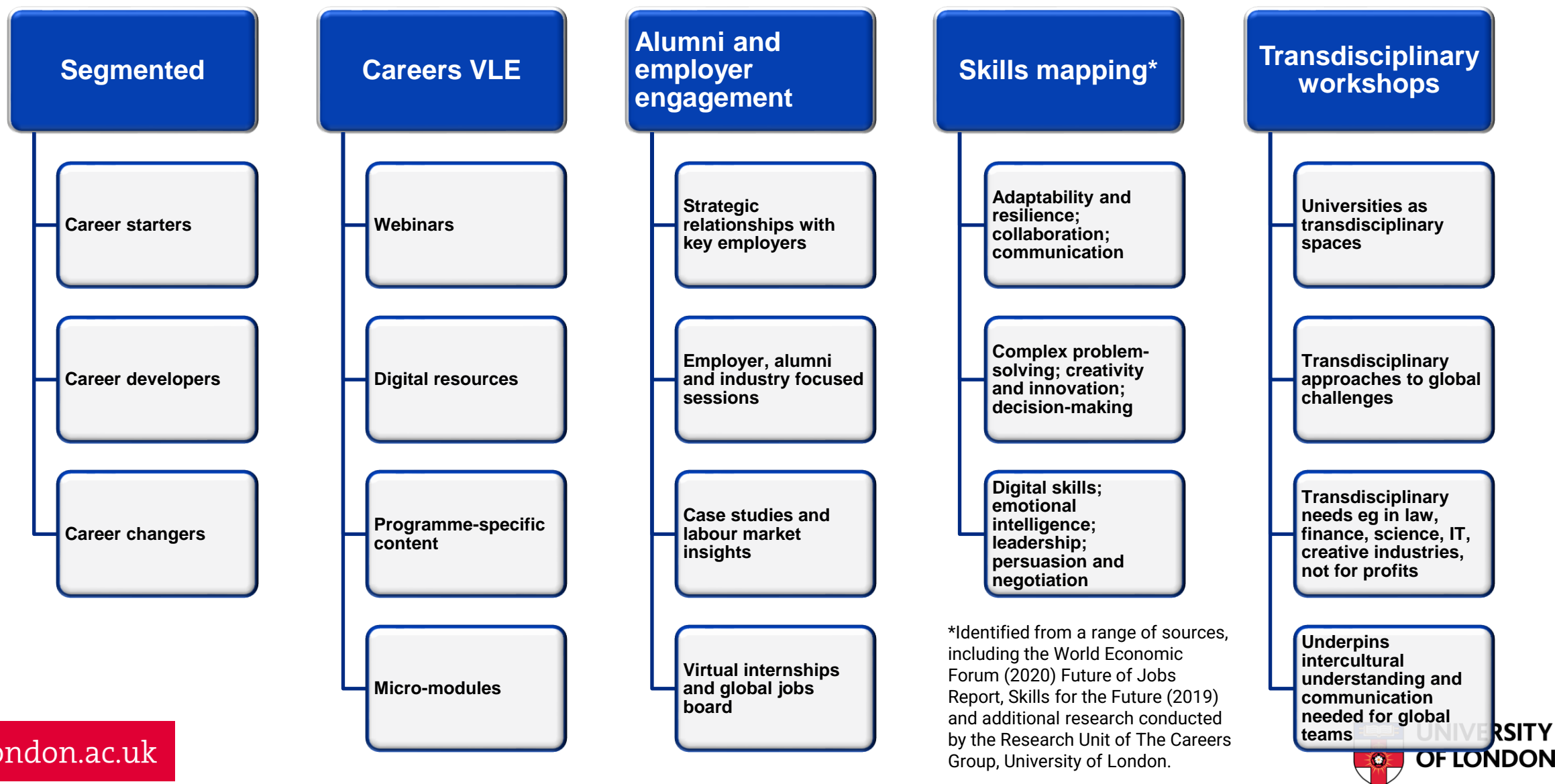**Engagement and communications**
- Online clubs and societies
- Social media
- Blogs and podcasts
- Lapsed student campaigns

Alumni Inspiration: Venkatesh, Postgraduate Certificate in International Sports Man...

Indian cricketer, Venkatesh Prasad shares his experience of studying with us in his home country and the importance of the programme in the sports industry.

MORE VIDEOS

0:32 / 5:40

Careers and employability embedded in provision

Segmented
- Career starters
- Career developers
- Career changers

Careers VLE
- Webinars
- Digital resources
- Programme-specific content
- Micro-modules

Alumni and employer engagement
- Strategic relationships with key employers
- Employer, alumni and industry focused sessions
- Case studies and labour market insights
- Virtual internships and global jobs board

Skills mapping*
- Adaptability and resilience; collaboration; communication
- Complex problem-solving; creativity and innovation; decision-making
- Digital skills; emotional intelligence; leadership; persuasion and negotiation

*Identified from a range of sources, including the World Economic Forum (2020) Future of Jobs Report, Skills for the Future (2019) and additional research conducted by the Research Unit of The Careers Group, University of London.

Transdisciplinary workshops
- Universities as transdisciplinary spaces
- Transdisciplinary approaches to global challenges
- Transdisciplinary needs eg in law, finance, science, IT, creative industries, not for profits
- Underpins intercultural understanding and communication needed for global teams

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Leveraging student voice for continuous enhancement

WHY DO IT?

"Research evidence has demonstrated robust correlation between student engagement and positive student outcomes including satisfaction, persistence, academic achievement and social engagement." Thomas, L., 2017. Evaluating Student Engagement Activity. London: TESEP. Available at: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/changemakers/sites/changemakers/files/tsep_framework.pdf

Online surveys

Automated module evaluations

Student Voice Group

Student representation in university governance structures

Consistent feedback loop

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International collaborations to share best practice

42 Fellows
3 Visiting Scholars
20 CODE student Fellows

Communities of practice across the Globe

Expertise includes:
- Pedagogy
- Learning design
- Assessment
- Quality Assurance
- Staff development
- Leadership, strategy
- Management and finance of Online and Distance Learning
- Research
- Evaluation

National Universities Commission Nigeria

- 2017 signed an MoU, annual programme of symposia, workshops and engagement with over 100 Nigerian Universities – to support the development of high quality online and distance learning centres throughout the sector.

Open University China

- Strategic partner to support development of high-quality education across China. Provide an online teacher development course for OUC– 350 staff to date. Host visiting scholars from OUC. Research and Publications outputs.

and

- Work with universities and organisations in Mexico, Costa Rica, East Africa and the Middle East

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