



“This project will assist Zayed University and other higher education institutions in the UAE to develop high quality degree programs that will be offered fully online to regional and international audiences.”

H.E. Noura Bint Mohammed Al Kaabi,  
Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development and President of Zayed University



The Foundation launched the [University Consortium for Quality Online Learning](#) (UCQOL) in partnership with the UAE Ministry of Education and 9 leading universities in the UAE. UCQOL seeks to build the capacity of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the online education ecosystem.

What is UCQOL?

Why UCQOL?

Capacity Needs Assessment

CNA key takeaways

<p><b>75%</b> of students intend to continue pursuing online programs after the pandemic. <small>(International Finance Corporation, 2022)</small></p>	<p>HEIs face challenges when transitioning online because of difficulties like misunderstanding of digital teaching resources. <small>(McKinsey, 2020)</small></p>	<p>HEIs should invest in targeted faculty capacity building and infrastructure to deliver effective online programs <small>(McKinsey, 2020)</small></p>	<p><b>27%</b> of students cited that program accreditation influenced their choice of online programs. <small>(Online College Students Report, 2022)</small></p>
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The consortium collaborated with leading international experts to devise a [multi-phased](#) project. The first phase was a Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) that focused on the following areas for each participating institution:

1. Vision and Strategy
2. Organizational Structure
3. Faculty Readiness
4. Instructional Design and Media
5. Technology and Infrastructure
6. Learning Management Systems and Tools
7. Student Outreach and Recruitment
8. Student Support and Community

**Universities can do the following to strengthen their online education provision:**

✓	Conduct a market analysis to identify the type of online program and target learners
✓	Conduct a market analysis to identify what online programs are needed for specific learners
✓	Provide regular training to faculty on online course design and delivery
✓	Invest in personnel and processes to produce high-quality teaching content
✓	Join consortiums of HEIs to access shared resources and personnel

Click [here](#) to learn more about the results of the CNA and how universities can determine their level of readiness to introduce quality online learning at their institutions.

