

# What is CloudFirst?

## Defining CloudFirst for Deakin staff



### Definitions at a glance

#### CloudFirst

refers to an approach prioritising students' online learning experience, complemented by onsite learning (where applicable)

#### CloudFirst Design

used when referring to purposeful design using key considerations of service, portfolio, team and learning design

#### CloudFirst Learning Design

refers to the application of Deakin Principles for Premium Learning and Teaching ([PPLT](#)) with a CloudFirst lens

#### CloudFirst Projects

refers to projects funded by the DVCE to support Faculties to redesign courses using a CloudFirst approach

### Why CloudFirst?

At Deakin, we are global leaders in distance and online education. We want to defend and grow our reputation as digital learning innovators as more institutions enter this market. The CloudFirst approach enables Deakin to do this and fulfil our promise to provide our students with a brilliant education, where they are and where they want to go, by putting the student experience at the centre of everything we do.<sup>1</sup>

Students studying online are more likely to leave their course early than on-campus students, this is true both at Deakin and across the sector.<sup>2,3</sup> This may not be surprising given who our online students are.

Cloud Campus students are more likely to be balancing their studies with part-time or full-time work; they also tend to be older so they're more likely to have family or other carer commitments.

Cloud Campus students may have less time to devote to their studies and it's likely that their study hours don't match the university's opening hours.

This means that a technical issue or question about the content can cause delays and have a bigger impact than for a student studying on-campus.

Cloud Campus students are also more likely to feel alone and isolated as they go through their course, and they get frustrated with resources and services that aren't purposefully designed for the online learning environment.

All of these things are commonly cited by students as reasons for withdrawing from their course.<sup>2,4,5</sup>

### What is CloudFirst?

At Deakin, all students' learning experiences begin online. In CloudFirst, learning is reimagined and designed for the 21st century. CloudFirst is an approach prioritising students' online learning experience, complemented by onsite learning experiences (where applicable).

This approach means keeping the unique needs of learning online front of mind to create premium online learning experiences. CloudFirst leverages digital technologies to transform our courses, units and learning materials to deliver active and collaborative learning opportunities anytime, anywhere in the world.

The CloudFirst approach creates purposefully designed, fully-guided sets of online learning resources that enable self-regulated active learning, rather than retrofitting learning materials originally designed for onsite students. It also refocuses assessment around authentic tasks and appropriate feedback for online learners.

The outcome is to enhance student connection and interaction to improve the online learning experience and student success. It also implements smart workflows to make teaching, assessment and feedback more sustainable for teachers and more engaging for students.

### Did you know?

All Deakin students have an online learning experience, whether they are studying in our Cloud Campus or at our Burwood, Geelong and Warrnambool campuses.

CloudFirst adds significant value to all Deakin students by providing purposefully designed learning resources including active and collaborative online and/or onsite learning opportunities.

# What is CloudFirst Design?



## Portfolio Design

- Mix of degrees
- Stackable courses
- Credentialing
- Target markets
- Recognition of prior learning



## Learning Design

- Social learning
- Scaffolded
- Activity-focused
- Supported
- Feedback-focused



## Team Design

- Multidisciplinary
- University-wide partnerships
- Teacher presence
- Learning facilitators



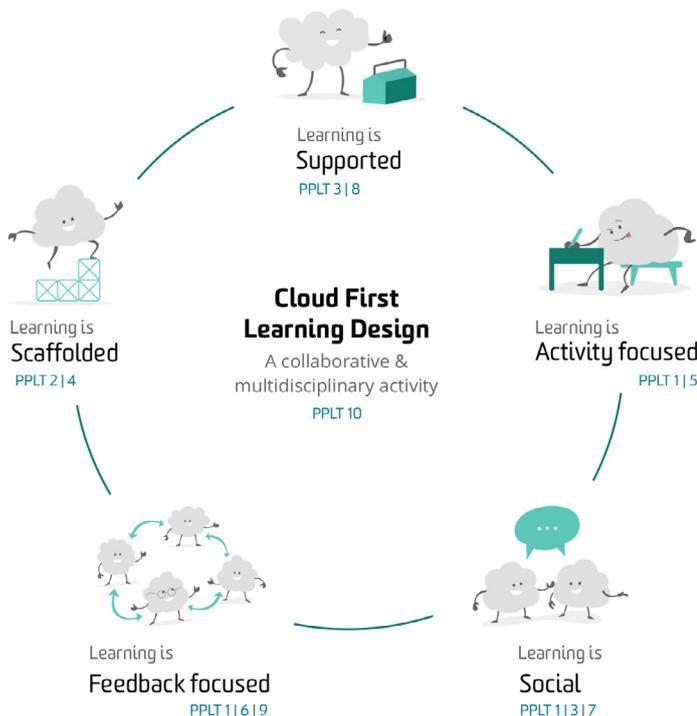
## Service Design

- Seamless student experience
- Learn-to-learn resources and coaching
- Co-created educational experiences

# What is CloudFirst Learning Design?

CloudFirst Learning Design is the application of the Principles for Premium Learning and Teaching (PPLT) with a CloudFirst lens. In practice, the PPLT can be readily clustered together to aid in the design and development of online learning experiences.

As an introduction to CloudFirst Learning Design, and as a resource to assist teaching staff to apply CloudFirst to course and unit design and redesign, CloudFirst101 is available in CloudDeakin.



## References

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