



Online Courses (MOOCs) Information for Students in Basel

Educational Technologies, 14.08.2019

1. Background

Since 2015 the University of Basel is offering its own Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on FutureLearn (www.futurelearn.com). A MOOC is a specific type of online course,

- which does not have any restrictions on participation ('massive'),
- where anyone, irrespective of their age or educational background, is able to participate without any formal access restrictions ('open'),
- which is offered entirely via the Internet ('online'), and
- which takes place within a defined time frame, has a curricular structure and for which learning support is provided ('course').

Basel MOOCs (subsequently referred to as online courses) are integrated in the study programmes of the University of Basel. Courses that incorporate online courses are advertised in the University's course catalogue. Students can enrol in the respective courses the same way as in any other course. The online courses are accessed via the FutureLearn platform. Registration for the online course on FutureLearn, thus, is not sufficient for enrolment in the study program at the university (see page 4: credits at your home institution). In the following we will provide information on the FutureLearn platform and the integration of the online courses in the courses at the University of Basel.

2. Learning with FutureLearn

Please note that FutureLearn follows the concept of social learning. This means, that you are supposed to learn the most if you do not only watch videos, read texts and fill out quizzes but also engage in discussions with your peers. To leave a comment or discuss an issue is not compulsory – you may do it at your own discretion. But on FutureLearn, it generally is a very uplifting experience!

3. Using FutureLearn

The FutureLearn platform is very easy and intuitive to operate. At <https://www.futurelearn.com/using-futurelearn> you will find information that helps you to start using FutureLearn. Furthermore, it is worthwhile taking a look at the FAQ: <https://about.futurelearn.com/about/faq/>

How do I register with FutureLearn?

In order to sign up for online courses with FutureLearn, you must register first (Figure 1). To do so, enter your first name, last name and a valid e-mail address, and select a password and your Email preferences. **We recommend that you do not use the password of your university account.**

By clicking the register button you agree to

- the **terms & conditions**,
- the **privacy policy**, and
- the **code of conduct**.

More detailed information on the terms & conditions, the privacy policy and the code of conduct, which requires your particular attention, can be found on the following pages.

Once you have registered, you will receive an e-mail from FutureLearn, asking you to confirm your e-mail address via the link contained in this mail. Subsequently, you will be registered with FutureLearn and can participate in any of the online courses on offer. You will find all online courses offered by the University of Basel at: <https://www.futurelearn.com/partners/basel>

What do I need to bear in mind when using FutureLearn?

The terms & conditions and the privacy policy of FutureLearn regulate the use of the online contents and courses on the FutureLearn website by the learners. Furthermore, they explain the rights and responsibilities of the learners towards FutureLearn on the one hand and those of FutureLearn and the Partner Institutions towards the learners on the other hand. They are intended to prevent any conflicts or statutory violations between the contracting partners.

The items regulated in the terms & conditions are implicitly contained in the code of conduct. If you adhere to the latter, it is very unlikely that you will violate the terms & conditions. Therefore, we ask you to read this code of conduct very carefully, even if many points may seem self-evident:

Code of conduct: <https://about.futurelearn.com/terms/code-of-conduct/>

As a FutureLearner you agree that:

- You are at least 13 years old.
- You will communicate in English only (or the specified language of a course).
- You have registered for one account only, and use an appropriate profile name
- You will not share your personal contact details on the FutureLearn platform, or ask another learner for theirs.
- The comments and assignments you post are your own work, and if you quote anything from another place (including other comments), you credit the author.
- You are respectful of others, and do not use words or share content that is offensive or inflammatory.
- If you disagree with someone's ideas you will discuss their ideas, rather than criticise or attack them personally.
- You take part in tests and assessments honestly, and don't share the answers.
- You are supportive and constructive when offering feedback to other learners in activities such as Peer Review and discussions.
- You are law-abiding and do not participate in, condone or encourage unlawful or potentially harmful activity.
- You are here to learn, not to advertise products or services, and you will not use FutureLearn as a platform for campaigning.
- You add to conversations and do not 'spam' other learners by posting the same comment multiple times, or by posting comments that are unrelated to the course.
- You will help the FutureLearn community by reporting comments that you believe have broken this Code of Conduct.

Terms & conditions: <https://about.futurelearn.com/terms/>

In addition to the details of the terms & conditions implicitly contained in the code of conduct, the following points must be kept in mind:

Registration and Account

- You must register for a personal account on the Website (a "Learner Account") by providing a name, an email address and a password. You agree that you will never divulge or share access or your access information to your Learner Account with any third party for any reason.

Your Content

- Throughout your use of the Website, Courses and Content, FutureLearn may provide you with the ability to provide content in the form of uploading notes and replies, Learner discussions, profile pages, and other content and media for social interaction, or certain information and materials for use

with the Website or Online Content and Courses, e.g., written assignments, surveys, questions, hypothetical, examples, etc. (collectively, "Learner Content")

- We do not claim ownership of any Learner Content you may submit or make available for inclusion on the Website or Online Content and Courses. Accordingly, subject to the licence granted to us and any applicable Partner Institution, the Learner will be the sole and exclusive owner of any and all rights, title and interest in and to the Learner Content.
- With respect to any Learner Content you submit to us or that is otherwise made available to us, you grant us an irrevocable, worldwide, perpetual, royalty-free and non-exclusive licence to use, distribute, reproduce, modify, adapt, publicly perform and publicly display or otherwise exploit such Learner Content on the Website and/or in the Online Content and Courses, with the right to sublicense such rights for any purpose associated with the provision of the Website and the Online Content and Courses. We reserve the right to remove any Learner Content without notice at any time and for any reason.
- Any Learner Content that is published on the public discussion areas of the Website (for example, the forums or areas where posts are made) will be subject to a Creative Commons Licence (Attribution-Non Commercial-No Derivates; BY-NC-ND). FutureLearn will not make available any Learner Content related to your assignments or assessments. For further information on the Creative Commons licences, please visit: <https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/licensing-types-examples/licensing-examples/>

Credit points at your home institution

- Online courses offered by the university course providers are also open to their own students (in the case of courses of the University of Basel, for students who are enrolled at the University of Basel).
- The awarding of credit points at the home institution is regulated by the respective university (in this case the University of Basel) and not FutureLearn.
- **FutureLearn does not award credit points.** Although you are given the opportunity to acquire (subject to a charge) from FutureLearn certificates (Certificate of Achievement), these are neither an equivalent nor a requirement for the awarding of credit points at the University of Basel.

Privacy policy: <https://about.futurelearn.com/terms/privacy-policy>

FutureLearn attaches great importance to data privacy, definitively to a greater extent than with comparable US-American platforms, where data is protected in accordance with their respective law.

The privacy policy states which information FutureLearn collects, what this information is used for and where it is stored.

For further information on data protection, please visit the data protection policy at <https://about.futurelearn.com/terms/data-protection-policy/>.

4. How are online courses generally integrated into courses at the University of Basel?

Integration format

- Online courses are being introduced at the University of Basel as a new teaching aid format and are not a new course format.
- They can be integrated into various course formats (lectures, seminars, practical courses etc.).
- The integration of the online courses is implemented within the scope of a so-called "blended learning concept": In addition to the online course, we offer in-class courses (individual session of lectures or seminars, accompanying block courses, practical courses or parallel tutorials, group or project work etc.).
- The course concept specifies whether the online course is a compulsory teaching aid or not. If it is a compulsory teaching aid, participation in the online course is mandatory.

Access and attendance

- The online courses are publicly accessible and free of charge (for all).
- A course is only freely accessible for a certain period of time without the purchase of an update. Once you have enrolled, the course is free for the following period: enrolment date + course duration + two weeks.
- Participation in the online course will not be checked, even if the online course is a compulsory teaching aid and therefore an obligatory component of a course (comparable to compulsory reading).
- It is assumed that all students have access to the online course as nowadays, access to the Internet is a requirement for academic studies and the online courses on FutureLearn are barrier-free.

Data protection

- The University of Basel will not and cannot access individual learner data from FutureLearn.
- No data is exchanged between the student administration of the University of Basel and FutureLearn.

Awarding of credit points at the University of Basel

- Credit points in courses that incorporate an online course will be awarded solely through a performance review at the University of Basel. This review will be undertaken as specified in the study regulations of the University of Basel. It will not be undertaken on FutureLearn.
- The examination content corresponds to the contents imparted and competencies acquired in the online courses according to the course concept.
- No credit points will be awarded for the successful completion of the online course based on the FutureLearn certificate.