



Transforming online learning for public health programs

Oppida

- **Client:** Australian Catholic University (ACU)
- **Location:** Australia
- **Platform:** Moodle
- **Sector:** University

Oppida partnered with Australian Catholic University (ACU) to develop and deliver a fully online Master of Public Health degree. By leveraging our expertise in online learning design, we worked closely with ACU's Public Health teaching team to enhance course delivery, engagement, and the overall digital presence. The result was an engaging online experience tailored to meet the unique needs of postgraduate students.



About the Australian Catholic University (ACU)

Established in 1991, Australian Catholic University (ACU) is a public university with multiple campuses across Australia. It offers undergraduate, postgraduate, and PhD programs across four faculties: education and arts, health sciences, law and business, and theology and philosophy. ACU welcomes students from diverse backgrounds, with a focus on delivering educational programs that integrate high academic standards with the values of Catholic education.

The challenge

ACU's Public Health teaching team faced the challenge of delivering a fully online Master of Public Health program under tight deadlines. They required the redesign of four online postgraduate units for Semester 1, 2020, with additional units scheduled for subsequent semesters.

The challenge lay in moving beyond simply adapting face-to-face resources for digital delivery. The team sought to develop a student-centred, best-practice online learning experience that could increase student engagement and retention while meeting the demands of both digital and face-to-face courses.

The solution

Oppida worked closely with ACU's Public Health team, adopting a human-centred design approach to ensure the online course met the needs of students while maintaining ACU's high academic standards. The key elements of our solution included:

- **Digital learning health check:** We conducted an in-depth analysis of ACU's existing online materials to identify areas for improvement and align them with best practices in online learning design.
- **Collaborative design and development:** Working closely with the ACU team, we co-created various design and project management tools that could be used to develop and refine the new online units. These tools enabled ACU to deliver engaging, learner-centred content through their Moodle platform, 'Leo'.
- **Customised learning experiences:** The new online units featured rich media such as teaching videos, case studies, and creative tasks that encouraged active engagement. Additionally, students participated in collaborative group work that was designed specifically for the online learning environment.

The results

The redesigned Public Health program was successfully launched for Semester 1, 2020, and student feedback was overwhelmingly positive. ACU faculty members reported increased confidence in their ability to mentor others through the online learning journey, thanks to the collaborative design process.

This partnership not only improved communication and collaboration across the teaching team but also led to more effective online learning experiences for students. ACU continues to use the design and project management tools created with Oppida to enhance future online units.





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