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We hope you had a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Welcome to the January newsletter!

This is our monthly newsletter that gives you some news and updates about what is going on with DistanceLearningCentre.com, our staff and our learners. In this month's newsletter we will go over some of the ways we have improved our services and learner experience. We have worked hard over the last year to improve our services and resources, and we have a full action plan for this year also!



## UCAS and Universities

### UCAS:

Learners who have completed 6 credits and wish to apply to University through us for **September 2022** now only have a short time remaining to complete their applications for the UCAS equal consideration deadline on the **26th January**. Any student who wants to meet this deadline must have completed and sent their application to their tutor by **12th January 2022**.

We strongly advise you complete your UCAS application as soon as possible, remember to use the advice on the UCAS application page in your learner account toolkit. Please read the [PowerPoint and watch the useful video on the Toolkit page](#).

## Corporate Livewire Prestige Awards

Last November our company Directors attended the Prestige Awards to collect our award for **Online course provider of the year!**

The [Corporate Livewire Prestige Awards](#) recognises small and medium-sized businesses that have proven to be the best in their market over the past year. Our award recognised our wide range of accredited courses, the high quality tutors and the high level of experience we had in this area.



Company Directors Andrew Whitehead and Karen Hayday at the Prestige Award ceremony.

## Student Action Group

**The Student Action Group met in December to discuss the changes we have made and how to make your learning experience even better!**

We have put together a little summary of the feedback gained from the meetings we had last year, and how we have actioned them (or plan to action them):

- The group highlighted how important the Facebook group is for our learners, providing a community that our learners can use to support each other and connect. **We have looked at our website and have sent changes to our developers to promote the Facebook Group on our website more clearly, so more of our learners can find it.**
- The group said they liked the video support resources we have been working on since the initial meeting, with loads of new resources being uploaded to our YouTube channel. **We are producing more video support resources this year and developing our YouTube channel further.**
- In the last newsletter, we included information about the changes we are making to our SAQs. Feedback from the Student Action Group was that some SAQs were not as useful as they could be. **We are undergoing a full SAQ review, making the SAQs scaffold to the assessments.**



The next meeting will be in March and we would like to invite students to make suggestions for the Student Action Group to raise and discuss in the next meeting. You can make these suggestions via our Facebook group, or email [editor@distancelearningcentre.com](mailto:editor@distancelearningcentre.com).

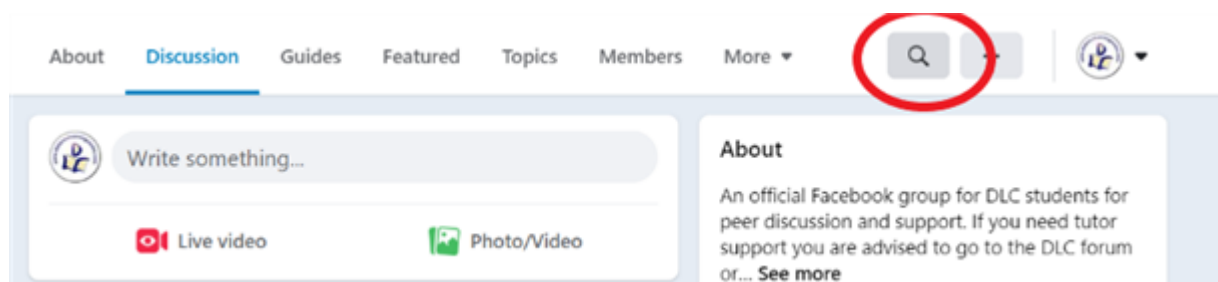
## Useful Facebook Group Features!

**Here are a few quick tips for using some of the features in our Facebook group that you may not have known about before:**

### **Search Function:**

In our group, learners are always asking great questions and helping each other find the answers. As time goes on, we have noticed that the same questions keep popping up and sometimes not getting the same great answers as they have in the past.

A great way to find out if your question has been asked and answered is to use the search tool. You find the tool by clicking the magnifying glass along the tabs bar:



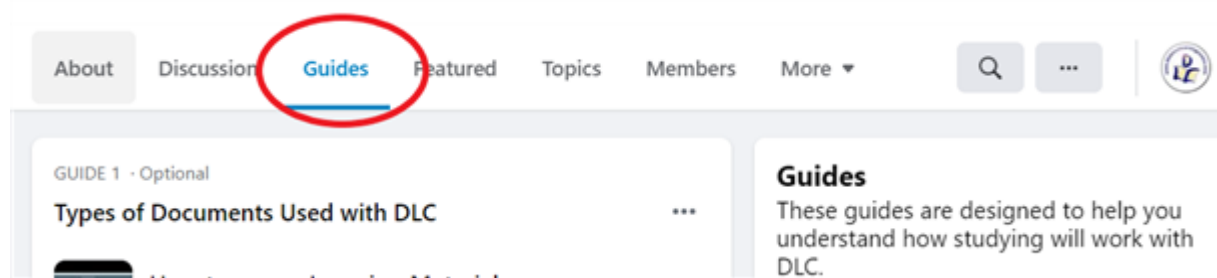
Using keywords such as "Biology" and "Practical" will help you find all posts relevant to the question or topic you want to find out about.

Facebook also has a handy guide for how to search for posts. [Click here to read.](#)

### **Guides:**

We have made some guides that we have uploaded to our Facebook group. These are useful files, such as; How to access Learning Materials, How to upload for Marking etc. We add to these guides over time with links to our YouTube resources too.

To access the guides you click on the Guides tab.



We hope to keep adding more helpful resources to our Facebook group and YouTube channel, but if you ever have any ideas please let us know!

## Where are they now?

**We've been catching up with some of our learners who completed courses with us over the years to find out what they have gone on to achieve. We have had a fantastic response, and it has been great hearing so many success stories that we wanted to share them in our newsletter.**

Each monthly newsletter will therefore be featuring a testimonial, in which our previous learners will share some great advice about studying for your Diploma and beyond!

Meet Jordan a former DistanceLearningCentre.com student who is now considering studying for a PhD.

"Upon completing my Diploma with DistanceLearningCentre.com, I went on to the study BSc (Hons) Marine Biology at the university of Hull, achieving a First-Class Honours degree.

Studying with the DistanceLearningCentre.com was a steep learning curve at times, and it is about as robust as it could be to prepare you for the rigours of undergraduate and postgraduate study. Over the last year I have completed my Masters by Research remotely due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and I tapped into my experience of working completely online during my Diploma studies to push through when I struggled. It is very useful, indeed. The resilience you build during the DistanceLearningCentre.com course provides you with the building blocks to succeed as you have to work independently and learn to trust yourself and your own judgment.

Now that I have completed my Research Masters in Ecology, Evolution & Behaviour at the University of Roehampton (achieving a Merit grade). I am thinking about either starting a career, or possibly pursuing further education by studying for a PhD. I am the happiest and most fulfilled I have ever been. I finally believe in myself as a human being. I believe I am capable and worthy of being successful, and happy in life. Where I am today is largely due to the opportunity that DistanceLearningCentre.com provided me, giving me; someone that messed up at school, a second chance in education." **(November 2021)**



## Finding errors or broken links?

**We want to keep our resources accurate and up to date- so please tell us if you find any errors or a link that no longer works!**

You can email the editing team directly at [editor@distancelearningcentre.com](mailto:editor@distancelearningcentre.com) who will resolve the problem promptly.

### Have any suggestions to add to our Resource Library?

Have you found any websites or resources that have been helpful to your studies and want to share them with other learners? Please let us know! We can add any helpful resources to our Library, meaning all our learners can make use of them also.

We are in the process of updating our Library. If there are any areas that you would like to see more resources for, you can let us know directly. Email the editing team with your suggestions and requests.



## Please send us your reviews!

### We need your reviews!

A large number of our learners choose us because of our positive reviews, so why not give us a review to help others choose the right course for them!

We are always looking to improve and require valuable feedback from our learners to do this. Please send us your honest feedback so that we can provide the best service for our learners.

You can give us a review or send us some feedback in a variety of ways:

- You can [write a review on our Facebook Page](#).
- You can email us. One of the ways we like to celebrate your achievements is our Hall of Fame! If you would be willing to be involved please let your tutor know.
- You can send us a testimonial. You may have looked at these when you were deciding to study with us, so perhaps you would like others to hear about your experiences.
- You can like and share our [Facebook Page](#).

We rely on word of mouth and personal recommendations, so please consider giving us a review.

It is also important for us to constantly improve our services, so if you have any suggestions or feedback about your experiences, do let us know.



### Hall of Fame and Awards of Achievement


We want to celebrate your achievements, and help other potential students find out about what it's like to study with Distancelearningcentre.com. We also like to hear your stories about how you have worked hard to achieve your goals!

Do you want to win back half your course fees? Follow this [link to find out more](#)

## Coronavirus Updates

### Remember to visit our Corona Virus News Page regularly for the latest updates!

Visit the updates page by clicking [here](#). There is an important update about the 2022 GCSE/IGCSE series for all learners planning to sit exams this year.

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