

Distance Learning in the Education of Surveying Engineers

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SUMMARY

At Lapland University of Applied Sciences, land surveying education is provided both in full-time studies and as multiform instruction for those studying alongside work. The content of the courses is the same for both teaching methods, but the implementation is always considered separately. For the most part, multiform instruction means distance learning, but students visit the school a few times a year for classroom sessions lasting 1–3 days. These sessions involve studying things like the use of surveying equipment and computer software. At the same time, the students get to know each other and their teachers. Classroom sessions are also a natural time for discussions with tutors.

In Lapland, the distances are long. The land surveying education is provided on a national scale, and the multiform students live in various parts of Finland, so they may live up to 1,000 kilometres away. Thanks to the distance learning solution, the students can work and live with their family while they study for a new profession or gain additional skills in the field of land surveying.

Distance learning means distance lectures, assignments and student presentations. The Lapland University of Applied Sciences uses the iLinc system for remote lectures. It can be used to display various materials to everyone and make speeches. At the same time, the participants can attend a chat session and post questions and comments. The students can also give their seminar presentations remotely. The distance lectures are recorded so students can return to them later. A fixed broadband connection is needed to give a distance lecture to ensure audibility, but a wireless connection is enough to listen to the lecture. The headphones should have a cable with a USB connector.

The lecture materials are saved in the Moodle system. It also contains the assignments and the boxes for submitting them. Examinations can also be created in Moodle. Feedback on the

assignments and examinations can be recorded in the system. In addition, e-mail is often used for student communications. Students also keep in touch with each other via social media; they may have their own Facebook group for discussions.

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