Evolution of the Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) Leader Facilitation Course

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Introduction

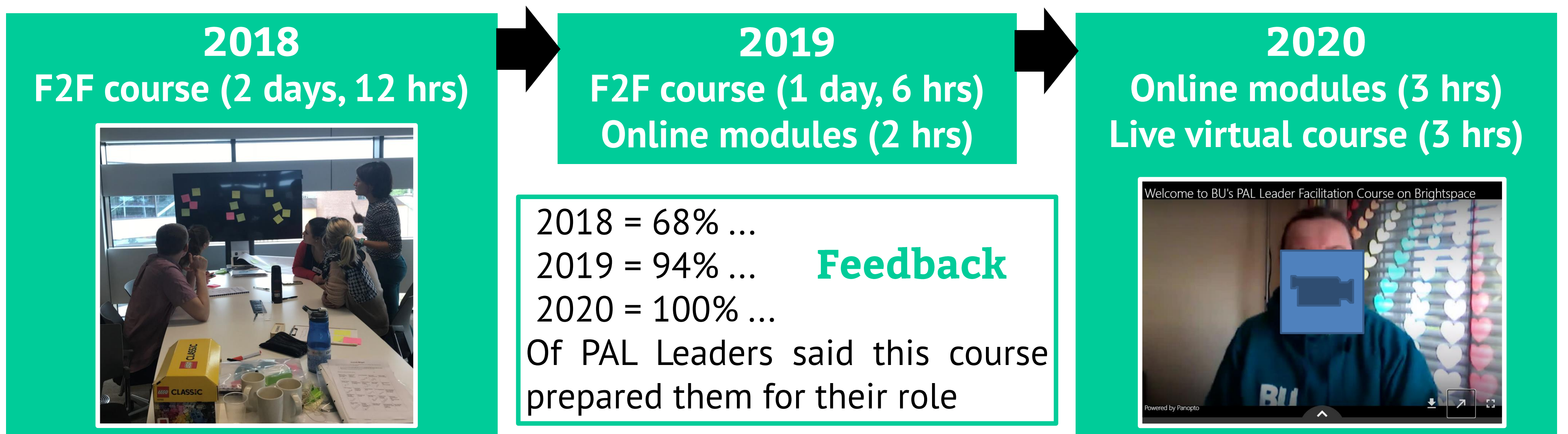**Who?** Taught & facilitated by the PAL Tutor Team for student PAL Leaders
What? Mandatory training course to prepare PAL Leaders for their role
When? Usually May/June/September each academic year
Where? Previously face-to-face (F2F) & handbook. Migrated to VLE, online guide & MS Teams
Why? Course has been adapted each year to address feedback from PAL Leaders & challenges explained below
Our Vision: To innovate & enhance this course whilst maintaining teaching excellence & quality of learning experience

2018	**2019**	**2020**
F2F course (2 days, 12 hrs)	F2F course (1 day, 6 hrs) Online modules (2 hrs)	Online modules (3 hrs) Live virtual course (3 hrs)

Feedback

2018 = 68% ...
2019 = 94% ...
2020 = 100% ...
Of PAL Leaders said this course prepared them for their role

Challenges

- Synchronous vs asynchronous learning during the pandemic: maintaining quality & PAL Leader engagement
- HE policy: HR introduces pay for mandatory training, resulting in budget constraints
- Student experience: continue meeting learning outcomes for all course activities

Developments

- Transformation from paper handbook to online modules
- Migration of content across platforms from Springshare's Libwizard to Brightspace (D2L)
- Consolidating learning via "flipped classroom" (BU 2021) approach

Core elements in the design & delivery of this course curriculum

- **Active learning** "...in order to learn, students must do more than simply listen.[...] Teachers design instruction that invites students to take action and to reflect on the skills and/or the knowledge required to complete a task" (Thomas 2009, p.13).
- "**Blended learning**, sometimes known as hybrid learning, is traditionally thought of as a blend of media or technologies allowing for a blend of modalities of learning, face-to-face and online" (Every Learner Everywhere et al. 2021, p.4).

References

BU, 2021. *Mixing the delivery of content: What is a flipped classroom?* [online]. Poole: Bournemouth University. Available from: https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/about/our-people/centre-fusion-learning-innovation-excellence/tel-toolkit/pedagogical-approaches-tel/flipped-classroom [Accessed 21 June 2021].
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