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An exploratory study of orthoptic student satisfaction in a blended learning environment

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- There is no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to this presentation.

Introduction

- At Lisbon School of Health Technology the Orthoptic BSc degree is a 4-year program.
- In the final year of the program students develop their clinical competences (internship) and a research project.
- **e-learning** is used as a new way of teaching that aims to educate innovative, flexible and creative graduates (Brown et al.,2009).
- This learning approach enables students to carry out-group work while on clinical placement (internship) in diverse locations nationwide.

Introduction

- Students' perceptions about the educational environment are among the factors that influence outcomes, satisfaction and success.
- The **blended learning** environment was quite novel when implemented in 2011/2012 for the module of orthoptic research.
- The purpose of this study was to describe orthoptic student satisfaction in a blended learning environment.

Methods

- Blended learning and teaching approaches that include a mix of sessions with e-learning are being used during the 1st semester.
- Students experienced different teaching approaches, which include seminars, tutorial group discussions and e-learning activities using the moodle (Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment) platform.
- **Moodle** is an open source software program designed to provide educators, administrators and learners with a single robust, secure and integrated system to create personalized learning environments.

Methods

The screenshot shows a Moodle course page for 'Seminários em ORT'. The browser address bar displays 'https://moodle3.estesl.ipl.pt/course/view.php?id=4664'. The page header includes the course title and a user profile for 'Carla Lança'. The main content area is titled 'Objetivos da unidade curricular' and contains a list of five objectives. Below the objectives are links for 'Fórum Notícias' and 'Questionário'. The 'Planeamento da unidade curricular' section describes the course structure. The right sidebar contains a calendar for May 2016, event filters, a search box for forums, and a section for 'Últimas notícias'.

Seminários em ORT

Nome de utilizador: Carla Lança. (Sair)
Português - Portugal (pt)

[Página principal](#) ► [As minhas disciplinas](#) ► [Área Científica de Ortopática](#) ► [SORT](#) Ativar modo de edição

Navegação

- [Página principal](#)
- [Minha página principal](#)
- [Páginas do site](#)
- [Meu perfil](#)
- [Disciplina atual](#)
 - SORT**
 - [Participantes](#)
 - [Medalhas](#)
 - [Objetivos da unidade curricular](#)
 - [Planeamento da unidade curricular](#)
 - [Slides das sessões comuns](#)
 - [Slides das Aulas](#)
 - [Exercício e projeto de investigação](#)
 - [Bibliografia adicional](#)
 - [Avaliação](#)
 - [As minhas disciplinas](#)

Administração

- [Administração da](#)

Objetivos da unidade curricular

A investigação é um dos meios mais importantes para guiar a prática profissional e assegurar a credibilidade da profissão.

Objetivos

1. Compreender os fundamentos das metodologias de investigação;
2. Analisar criticamente artigos científicos;
3. Identificar questões de investigação pertinentes;
4. Realizar opções metodológicas adequadas;
5. Ser capaz de se articular com os colegas da equipa de investigação.

[Fórum Notícias](#)

[Questionário](#)

O objetivo deste inquérito é ajudar-nos a compreender o papel da distribuição online desta unidade na qualidade da sua aprendizagem. Cada uma das afirmações refere-se à sua experiência nesta unidade. Não há respostas certas nem erradas; estamos apenas interessados na sua opinião. Garantimos que as suas respostas serão tratadas com um elevado grau de confidencialidade, e não vão influenciar a sua avaliação na disciplina. As suas respostas cuidadosas ajudar-não-ão a melhorar a execução online desta unidade, no futuro.

Planeamento da unidade curricular

As aulas de seminários estão sujeitas a um regime de verificação de presença, comprovada pela assinatura dos estudantes e validada pela assinatura do regente da unidade curricular, em lista criada para o efeito.

Calendário

May 2016

Dom	Seg	Ter	Qua	Qui	Sex	Sab
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Tipo de eventos

- [Ocultar eventos globais](#)
- [Ocultar eventos da disciplina](#)
- [Ocultar eventos do grupo](#)
- [Ocultar eventos do utilizador](#)

Procurar nos fóruns

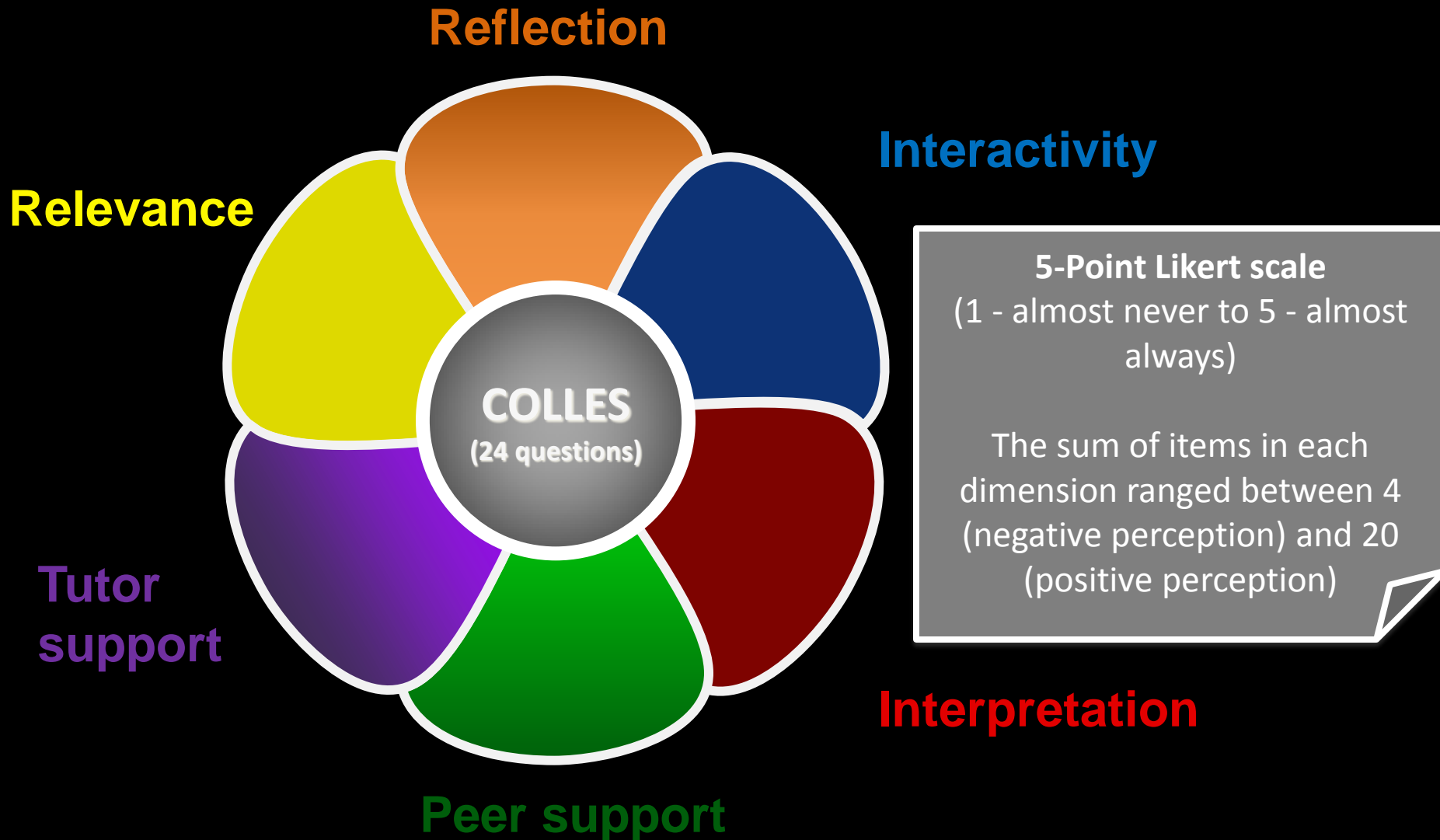
[Pesquisa avançada](#)

Últimas notícias

[Criar um novo tópico...](#)
(Ainda não foram publicadas notícias)

Methods

Constructivist On-Line Learning Environment Survey



Results

- Twenty-four students replied to the questionnaire (23.04 ± 2.37 years). There were 22 females (91.7%) and 2 males (8.3%).

Dimensions	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Reflection	12.00	20.00	16.46	2.45
Tutor Support	12.00	20.00	16.29	2.10
Relevance	9.00	19.00	16.13	2.63
Interpretation	12.00	20.00	15.38	2.16
Interactivity	8.00	20.00	14.13	2.77
Peer Support	7.00	19.00	13.29	2.60



Results



- Critical reflections about learning contents were frequent (n=19; 79.17%).
- The tutor was able to stimulate critical thinking (n=21; 87.50%), encouraged students to participate (n=18; 75%) and understood well the student's contributions (n=15; 62.50%).
- The majority of the students (n=18; 75%) think that the on-line learning is relevant to students' professional practice.



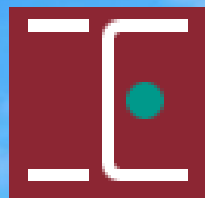
- Response from the colleagues to ideas (n=11; 45.83%) and valorization of individual contributions (n=10; 41.67%) scored lower than other items.

Discussion

- In a similar study in pharmacy education, students rated the highest on the aspect of professional relevance and the lowest on the aspect of interactivity (Sthapornnanon et al., 2009).
- Other studies reported similar results, which may indicate difficulties in the transition from a passive to an active learning style (Taylor & Maor, 2000; Dougiamas & Taylor, 2002).
- Rating the **tutor support** higher than peer support could reflect that the students are still very dependent on the lecturer (Syed-Mohamad et al., 2006).

Conclusions

- The flow back and forth between face-to-face and online learning situations helps the students to make critical reflections.
- The majority of the students are satisfied with a blended e-learning system environment.
- However, more work needs to be done to improve **interactivity** and **peer support**.
- Forums for open discussion moderated by the teacher throughout the orthoptic course need to be implemented.



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