



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# Blended Synchronous Teaching: Challenges to a Dual

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# What is blended synchronous learning (BSL)?

From Melbourne School of Design <https://msd.unimelb.edu.au/belt/teaching-quality/pedagogical-practices/teaching-in-online-environments/b/dual-delivery>

*Blended Synchronous Learning (BSL) is a trending approach to dual delivery where the same teaching and learning activities are experienced by all students at the same time, with some students face-to-face and others online*

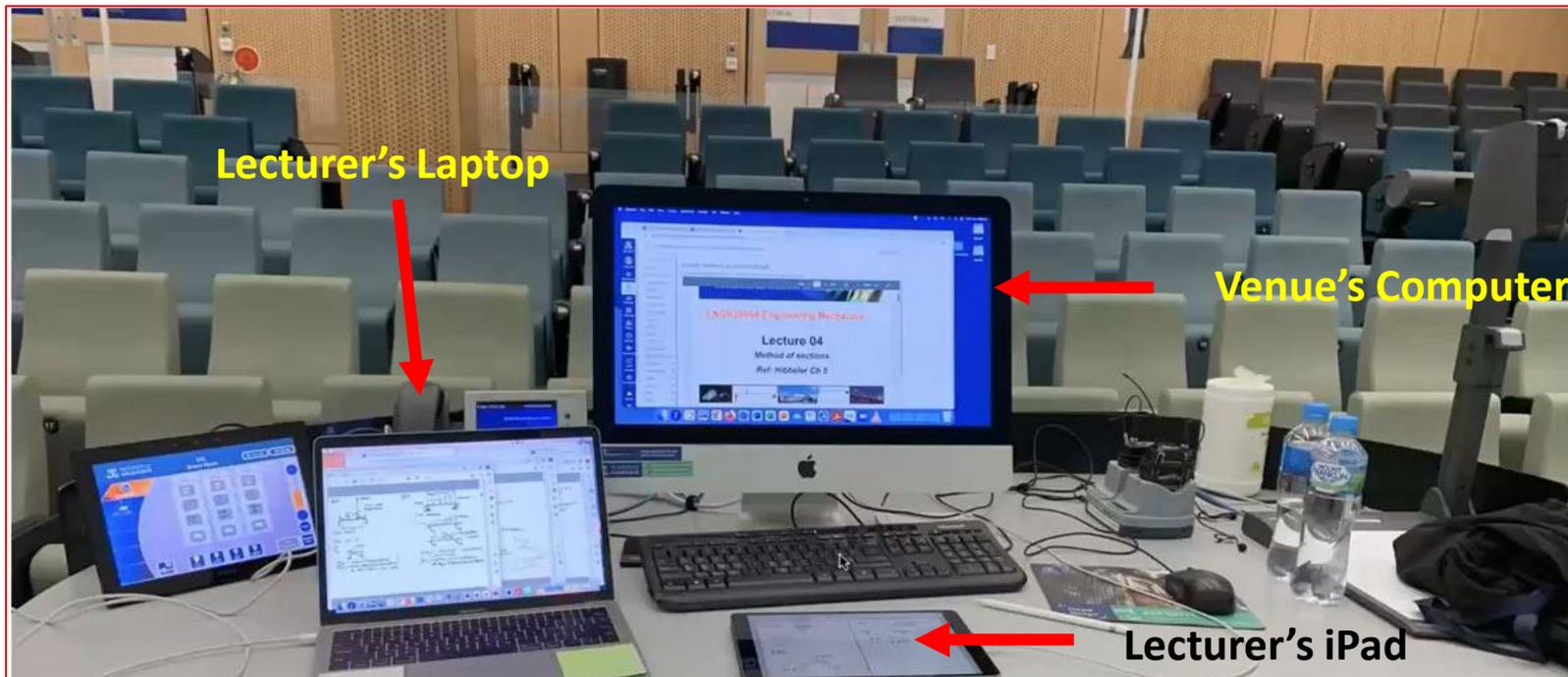


# What have been the main issues?

- In a blended synchronous learning setting the lecturer sets up the technology. Librarians do not have control. Faced with new situation when arriving at the teaching venue
- While many teaching venues have been set up for BSL some where the subject is taught hasn't.
- Librarians can't log in with their own account making using interactive tools like PollEverywhere more complicated.
- Often setup is for PowerPoint only rather than being flexible to show both online and face to face students live searching demonstrations.

# Too many screens spoil the broth

- Both computers had to be handled separately (i.e. one was not linked to the other): one for the online audience and the other: face-to-face.
- The venue's computer (connected to the theatre's overhead screen) was only visible to the face-to-face audience.
- The laptop's screen was only visible to those online (monitored by the non-presenter).
- The overhead screen was not linked to the laptop so slides had to be presented separately on both.



# BSL – the bad and the good

BSL not popular with all academics

*The audio visual has been a nightmare this semester – I use three different theatres and they are all poorly equipped. It's so unfair on staff and students"*

*"Thanks God we will all be in a lecture theatre next semester"*

**BUT**

'Virtual campus' during lockdown did show to some academics the potential of online learning.



# Future of BSL at the University of Melbourne

## ALSO....

- While the aim of the University of Melbourne to be totally on Campus in 2023, there may be student demand to continue BSL
- Liaison librarians' performance objective to "Contribute significantly to the development of coordinated teaching and learning support programs delivered via Canvas, Zoom and other online platforms"

# In conclusion

- BSL is here to stay
- Librarians need to communicate their presentation requirements with academic/tutors before presentations
- If BSL is required suggest that a BSL equipped venue is chosen

