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| The Webex ArmsCentre for Rural Creativity UHI | **Goal:** Create an online space for students to utilise for study and socialising, during the pandemic restrictions. **Submitted by:** Roxane Permar **Project:** To expand on an existing student space and use it to ensure continued engagement with students both academically and socially during lockdown.**Benefit to:** Students on the MA Art and Social Practice course

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| ****Key message: Promote online interaction and engagement**** |
| Create an area where students can exchange information regarding their course and also socialise |
| Ensure continued engagement with students whilst study is entirely online |
| Encourage collaborative working |
| Provide the opportunity for students to interact socially with their peers |
| Ensure students continue to be sufficiently supported |
| **Project delivery**  |  |
| Students used an existing online space, which they named the Webex Arms, to set up daily drop-in sessions to support one another |
| Staff started a twice weekly group ‘write-in’, comprising two 24 minute sessions |
| Students arranged an online pub quiz |
| During the Spring break, three talks were given on different topics, one from a staff member and two from PhD students  |
| Additional talks were arranged, with external speakers |

**Impact:**  The space provided students with an opportunity to access mutual support within their cohort, as well as enhanced bonding and friendship. It improved overall well-being and helped to ease anxiety and upset during lockdown. Students reported finding new resilience and confidence, and positive ways forward for their learning and work.  |

Naming of the space gave it a positive identity | Collaborative learning was encouraged, e.g. meeting in small study groups | Helped students take responsibility for their learning | Tackled the issues relating to lockdown in a positive way | Increased focus on certain tasks, for instance through sessions on writing techniques | Students have ownership of the space and are keen to continue to use it going forward