# Activity Description and Session Notes: Learner Profiles

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| Participant name |  |
| Activity title | Designing for online learners (1): Learner Profiles |
| How to use these notes | These notes are designed to be used alongside the PowerPoint ‘Designing for online learners’ to help you when a tutor is not present |
| Total time needed for activity | 1.5 hours |
| Learning outcome(s) | By the end of this session you will have:* considered the needs of your learners when developing or adapting an OER course
* Reviewed the characteristics of good online learning
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| Resources needed | * ‘Designing for online learners’ PowerPoint presentation
* Completed learner profiles
* Blank learner profiles
* Participant notes
* An example of an OER course
* Evaluation Checklist for reviewing OER
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| Slide 3Slide 4Slide 5Slide 7Slide 8Slide 9Slide 10  | **Learning Outcomes**Learning outcomes for this session. **Learner Profiles** The slide shows some questions to consider when developing a learner profile.**What is a Learner profile?**A Learner Profile is a well-developed fictional profile which reflects the type of person who is going to be studying your OER or learning resource. It should reflect their learning needs, study goals and educational aims. If available real life data such as demographic data and study behaviour analytics can feed into the profiles.**Why do we create learner profiles in Learning design?**Creating learner profiles puts your learners and their needs at the forefront of learning design. It allows you to create or adapt resources that resonate with your learners needs and study goals. This personalised, learner focused, approach will ensure the content is suitable for your audience and will encourage engagement, retention and active learning. **Things to consider when creating your Learner profile*** Where do your learners study? At home? Library? Work?
* Do they have internet connection?
* Do they study on a computer or maybe a mobile phone?
* How old are they?
* Do they have family commitments?
* How much time can they dedicate to studying?
* What are their study goals? Perhaps they want to progress their careers or for personal development?
* Do they like to study in groups or alone?
* What motivates them to study? Do they like to receive feedback? Do they like a certification of achievement at the end?

**Activity 1: Reviewing your Learner Profiles*** Either in a small group or independently, choose one of the learner profiles you previously developed.
* What is the learner’s characteristics, needs, preferences and barriers to learning?
* List any further characteristics, needs, preferences and barriers to the profile, if required.
* Think about any implications these have for the resource you are designing or adapting.
* If you are working in a group, discuss these implications together.
* Write down the main points of your discussion/thoughts.

**Activity 2: Evaluating OER** Based on the needs of your learner, as identified in the Learner Profile activity, consider changes you would make to an OER course. * Find an OER course using OASIS (<https://oasis.geneseo.edu>). Alternatively, use an OER course you are familiar with and have studied in the past (this could be an OpenLearn course)
* Discuss or write down 3 key implications of your learner profile for chosen OER course being adapted or redeveloped. For example you could:
	+ Provide learning materials in small manageable sections if your learners are time poor
	+ Add a quiz to help learners reflect and assess their learning
	+ Provide a certificate of completion to keep learners motivated.
* Write down other ways you could adapt your OER based on the needs of your learners.

**Evaluation Checklist for OERs**These are some of the pedagogical criteria you may have considered when selecting your OER:* Learning outcomes are stated and match with learner’s needs
* Engaging and interactive
* Set at the appropriate level, with any prerequisite skills/understandings stated
* The time required to study is stated and equates to the importance of the learning outcomes achieved.

A comprehensive list is provided in the *Evaluating OER* checklist from the November 2019 Residential School and further information can be found on this OpenLearn course, you don’t have the do the course as part of this activity but you might like to bookmark it for future reference.<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/education/creating-open-educational-resources/content-section-4.2>**Activity 3: Evaluating your OER** * Use the checklist provided and review the OER course you have chosen.
* Make notes on how well your chosen OER course matches the criteria.

**Next Time**In a future session you will: * Focus on your chosen OER course and consider what structure you want, what changes you will make and why.
* Create a plan for your design, that you will then put online.
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