

Professional learning at SSERC

Life has changed for everyone in this time of COVID-19 and so it is that life at SSERC has changed too. The SSERC team (mostly working from home) have been busy reconfiguring courses so that they can be delivered online via ZOOM, or Adobe Connect, as ‘SSERC_meets’, or through self-study components, or face-to-face at SSERC where social distancing guidelines permit.

Face-to-face

For example, many of our technician courses are competence based and involve practical assessment which can only be carried out face-to-face with small numbers of delegates. For face-to-face courses we will put in place appropriate measures at SSERC to allow social distancing, hand-cleaning and suitable lunch arrangements to keep people safe.

Self-study & online sessions

Some courses can be completed via self-study modules. Others have self-study components such as prior reading, or a ‘Gap Task’ to be completed by delegates at home, or in their school.

Where funding allows, for example in the case of ENTHUSE funded courses, we may be able to provide resources to support learning back in delegates’ schools. For some online sessions we may send small amounts

of kit, so that delegates can carry out practical activities at home, or in their school during the online session.

We are hopeful that as the academic year progresses, it will become possible for a greater proportion of course delivery to happen face-to-face at SSERC. We will keep this under review and, as result, our professional learning programme may yet be subject to change. <<

SSERC Biology - learning from home

Over the years the Biology Team at SSERC has worked in partnership with colleagues from external organisations such as the research institutes and universities, to develop resources which support learning and teaching in schools. As well as producing resources, some of these colleagues have also delivered sessions at our professional learning events. As part of SSERC residential courses, teachers of biology have also visited some of these institutions and met the researchers who work there.

At the beginning of ‘lockdown’ we were in touch these colleagues with a view to gathering resources that might be useful to teachers and learners working from home. As a result links to a variety resources were placed on our ‘Biology Home Learning’ page [1].

There you will find activities for younger secondary learners, senior phase learners and for teachers.

We are grateful to all the contributors who include: The Centre for Regenerative Medicine; University

of Edinburgh School of Biological Sciences; University of Glasgow; SAPS; Easter Bush Outreach Centre, Roslin; Wellcome Trust Genome Campus and others. <<

Reference

[1] <https://www.sserc.org.uk/biology-home-learning/>

