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GLANCE

## E-learning is becoming increasingly important in tertiary education,

And not only because of the Covid-19 pandemic. It also offers students from **diverse backgrounds** the opportunity to study from a distance or reduce their time on campus through hybrid teaching solutions. E-learning can support traditional on-site education through easy access to academic papers and data, and facilitate student exchange between lectures and allow for better and more efficient supervision models.

## What we do

### 1 We **teach** generic modules

Each semester DIGI-FACE offers a selection of modules (courses) about many different topics, ranging from research methodologies to E-learning capacity building and basic digital skills. All modules are taught by experts in their field in a hybrid format, i.e., through weekly Zoom sessions and self-directed learning. They are free of charge and everybody with an affiliation to the African centres of Excellence is eligible to apply. The prospectus for the current semester [can be found here](#).

### 2 We **train multipliers** for generic modules

After each module run, we identify the best participants and, if interested, we train them to become facilitators of the module they have just completed. Since all modules run under an open access license, not only can they teach the module at their own centre, but they can modify and edit it according to their individual needs.

### 3 We provide an **E-learning platform** for you and your centre

All of our modules are run on the open-source learning management system Moodle. While everybody can theoretically set up their own platform with Moodle, we provide you with the necessary servers and IT assistance to keep the system up and running for you. Thus, you can start using it right away without having to set up the system yourself. Whenever you want to start teaching online, our DIGI-FACE Moodle platform is waiting for you. Additionally, we train you to shape your own section of the platform in a way that works for you.

### 4 We organise **regional capacity building events** according to your needs

Now as the pandemic is finally coming to a close, we will be able to meet again in person – more than two years after our initial kick-off meeting in 2020. Academia around the world has changed and adapted to the pandemic challenge in many different, oftentimes creative ways. Thus, it is important to exchange our knowledge, share our best practices and sharpen our skills where necessary. This is why DIGI-FACE will hopefully hold three regional trainings in 2022 – one each for Eastern, Southern and West African Centres. We will get in touch with you soon to prepare an event that will benefit everyone.

### 5 We enable you to **connect and exchange ideas** with your colleagues from all over Africa

Besides the generic modules and trainings DIGI-FACE offers our network for academics, university staff, PhD students and alumni. The platform allows you to present your centre's activities via a public blog, display your centre's publications (also those which have not made their way into a journal yet) and to work collaboratively on a shared task management system.

### 6 We help your centre achieve **sustainability** through independent funding

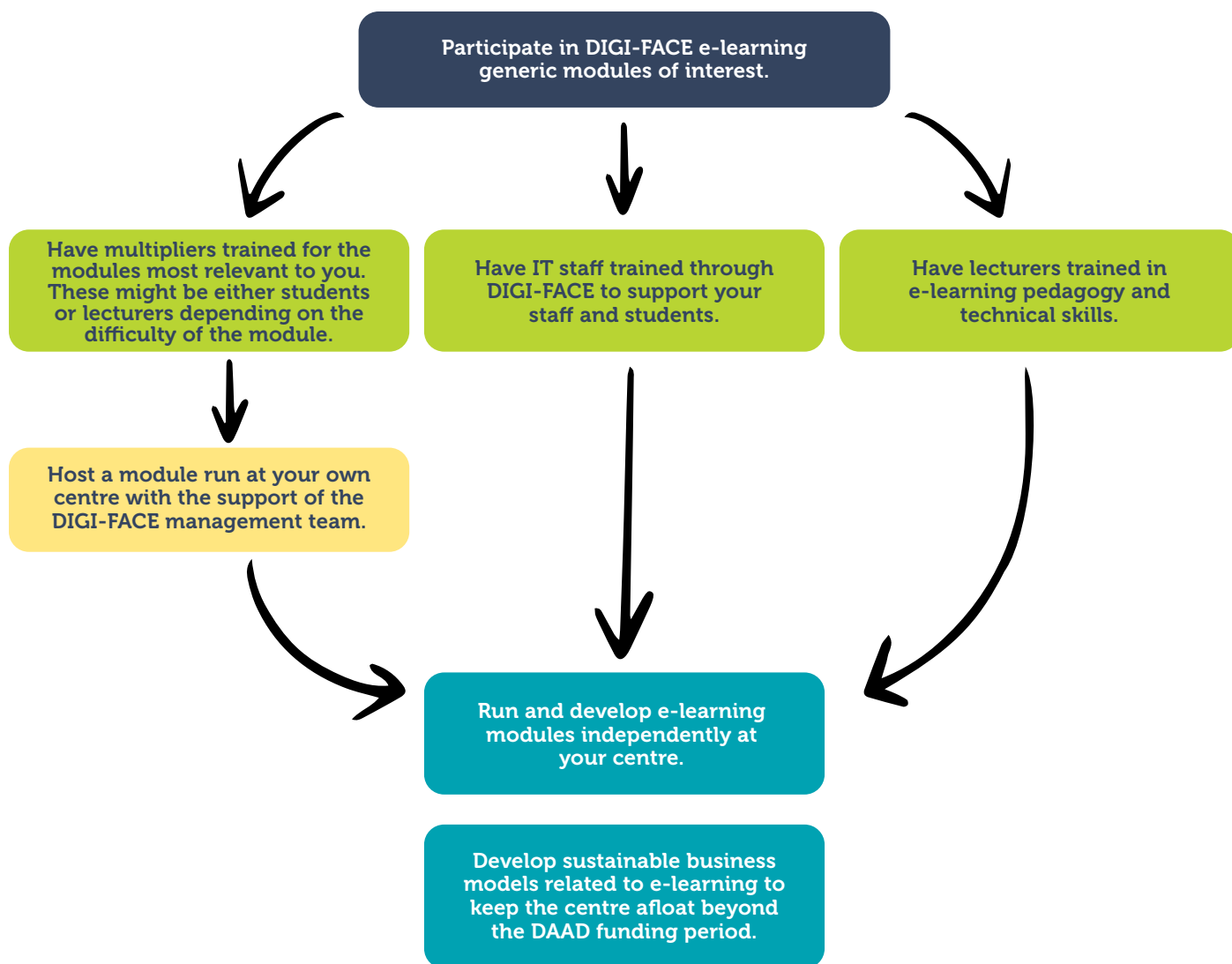
To ensure the long-term sustainability and financial independence from DAAD and the Centres of Excellence programme, we offer you expert business advice, tailored programmes and expert input via the Frankfurt School of Business and Finance.

**We are here to support you on your E-learning journey!**

# How to build E-learning capacities at your centre

Each centre is different – and each centre will take a different path when expanding its E-learning capabilities among staff and students. While there is no “one-size-fits-all” plan, we have certainly learned some important lessons along the way since DIGI-FACE started. Our experiences tell us that the best way for you to build capacities at your centre is to plan ahead and do things gradually. The diagram below provides an

overview of how some of our Centres have gradually expanded their skills and capabilities. Depending on how your centre is positioned, you can replicate this plan or construct your own development plan according to your needs. We hope to be able to assist you during an on-site regional training, which we are confident we will hold sometime this year.



## What next?

While we will do our best to meet with you regularly during the year to find out how you are doing and how we can support your activities, you are cordially invited to contact us anytime with any query related to our Moodle platform or E-learning in general at [digiface@uol.de](mailto:digiface@uol.de).

