

The two types of online learning programs

Program type	Description	Requirements	Pros	Cons
Asynchronous heavy	Most of the work is pre-set for students using an LMS or tasking app. This means students can complete tasks independently at their own time, pace and place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — An LMS or tasking software. — Teachers trained to use your LMS/tasking software effectively. — Digital assets and resources for teachers to use in lessons such as video, interactive tasks, and other online assets. — Adequate time for teachers to prepare pre-planned lessons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The most flexible solution that can cater to diverse student technology needs and challenges. — Provides a strong learning path for self-motivated students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — This places a large burden on teachers to pre-plan great lessons and source assets in advance. — It is more reliant on student's ability to carry out unsupervised work.
Synchronous heavy	Most of the teaching happens via real-time video conferencing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Every student needs a device that can support your chosen video conferencing solution. — Every student needs a high-bandwidth internet connection at home. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — It is the closest proxy to what's currently happening in the classroom. — Teachers will be most familiar with this mode of instruction, if not the medium. — It makes it clear that students are actively engaged for at least some period of the day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — It's incredibly hard to replicate the classroom experience in a video chat. — It raises the most technical issues. — Student's home internet connections must work to a reliable standard.