**Title**

The Impact of Online Learning during COVID-19 for Part-Time Students

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**Abstract**

This study sought to ascertain the impact of online learning during COVID-19 for part-time students at Institute of Technology Carlow. Adopting a mixed method approach, a questionnaire was completed by 401 part time students. Results from this quantitative approach revealed that 97% of students had engaged in online learning, with 60% reporting no difficulties in accessing the online classroom. For the 40% that did experience difficulties, they ranged from issues with broadband, hardware, the virtual learning platform to a lack of access to college facilities. 86% reported receiving clear instructions on how to use the virtual classroom. Over 70% reported promptness in having their queries dealt with and over 70% engaged with IT and the Library for additional supports. Less than half of the respondents reported feeling isolated and 84% reported engaging with their peers. An interpretivist approach was then employed through the facilitation of two focus groups where students elaborated on the challenges they faced, the benefits and drawbacks of online learning, how they engaged with others and suggestions for future supports for part time students.