

To realistically consider what university education will be like in 10 years' time it is useful to consider the state of education 10 years ago. It really was not drastically different from the present day and the constants through the years are likely to stay the same - modules being taught largely through lectures, with some practical modules too.

The main thing that has changed is the increased use of technology, and this is a trend that is unlikely to go away. As technology becomes integrated in our lives it will naturally become integrated into university education too. One thing that seems likely is more interactive lectures - using the fact that everyone is already connected with their phones and gadgets in order to provide real time feedback about what students understand and what requires greater clarity.

Another trend I think we will see more of is global connectivity. MOOCs are quite popular at the moment and I think that there will be more collaboration between universities in order to provide the best teaching to their students. For example, high profile lecturers could essentially skype in from across the globe to provide insight into their areas of research.

With the threat of global warming and climate change, universities will be leaders in creating sustainable campuses. This could include generating their own power through pioneering methods and having self-contained reuse and recycling programmes, integrated into university life and providing practical education experience.

My personal hopes for the future of university education, particularly in physics, is to see more demonstrations - they are really helpful for learning and often provide unforgettable experiences. The shift to digital content and online resources shouldn't mean that good old fashioned practical demonstrations should be left behind.

I also hope to see education that is, once again, free for all and that includes affordable accommodation and other living costs. One can hope.

Marion Cromb