



To engage and support students in learning there are technical considerations which may influence decisions regarding teaching strategies. This resource outlines a few options available at Western.

Technology/Service Available

- vUWS (Blackboard)
- Blackboard Collaborate
- Office365/Teams
- Microsoft Stream
- Turnitin
- Email
- Videos in Panopto
- Zoom
- Readings (Leganto)
- LinkedIn (Learning)

Technology/Service NOT Available

- Google Drive, Docs, Sheets
- Google Chrome (use Safari or Firefox instead)
- Vimeo
- YouTube
- Dropbox
- Facebook Suite (includes Instagram, WhatsApp, Messenger)
- Other Social Media:
 - Twitter
 - Snapchat
 - Reddit
 - Tumblr
 - Pinterest
 - Slack
 - Twitch
 - Discord
- Wikipedia
- Flickr
- Soundcloud

ONLINE LEARNING TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS IN CHINA

Technology tips

N.B. Personal VPNs are not permitted in China and cannot be publicly recommended to students as a solution to access blocked web resources.

System/Application	Available in China	Tips
Zoom	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice using Zoom to ensure your settings are correct before running a session. If there is an unstable internet connect, turn off the video feed. Upload a profile picture instead of using your video camera. Close all other applications on your computer and close other browser windows/tabs. Use a hard-wired (Ethernet) connection, if available. If Zoom video doesn't work, test Computer Mic & Speakers in the audio settings. If Zoom audio doesn't work, try VOIP phone call to the student. If VOIP doesn't work, try WeChat or email. You will be asked to enter your phone number (if you are in China) when joining a Zoom meeting.
Videos in Panopto	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the video does not buffer quickly, try audio playback (if alternative format is available). If audio playback is not smooth, try text only on PowerPoint with an accompanying text script. Make the Panopto videos downloadable for students (Panopto > Folder Settings Menu > Enable authenticated users to download podcasts), if students experience buffering issues, they can save video files to their local drive.
Readings (Leganto)	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform students to try to access and download readings when they have a stable internet connection. If the reading is blocked let the Library know.
vUWS (Blackboard)	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask students to install the Blackboard mobile app, find a temporary reliable wi-fi (e.g. library, university campus, café, etc.) and download the contents of the vUWS site for offline viewing.
Office365/Teams/Stream	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues were reported by Microsoft as their products are not blocked in China. Although Teams could be used for both synchronous and asynchronous communication with students, who have issues with Zoom, WSU tenancy set up currently does not allow students and staff to interact. ITDS is exploring affordances.

Google Product Suite and Google Search	NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggest Firefox or Safari (device dependent). This option may not be feasible and may depend on personal VPN availability.
YouTube/Vimeo	NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Popular video sharing platforms are blocked by GFW. Panopto or Microsoft Stream as alternative.
Social Media (Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, etc.)	NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of western social media platforms is not accessible in China. Use MS Teams, BB Discussion Boards.
Soundcloud	NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Panopto to upload and share your media. MS Stream.