

Criteria for choosing a distance-learning Course

If you are considering studying at a distance, it is important that you take a number of points to take into account so as to choose a course that meets your expectations regarding both quality and intensity. Here are 5 crucial items to be considered regarding distance-learning programmes:

- ✓ Accreditation and national recognition
- ✓ The Virtual Learning Environment
- ✓ A wide range of Study materials
- ✓ Time availability
- ✓ A Tutor or Study Advisor

Let's delve into each of these:

- **Accreditation and national recognition**: verify that the institution effectively exists and it is not just a webpage. The study programme has to be accredited by the Ministry of Education and other official agencies. These will ensure that academic standards are met and that the syllabi area relevant. Private institutions incorporated to the official educational system in Argentina must have an identification (usually a capital letter and a number, A-1301, for instance.) It should be noted that learning programmes and qualifications issued via distance learning programmes are of the same high quality as campus-based programmes. Ideally, the institution should have a mix of experience and innovation. Ask for references from teachers and students who are currently taking or have taken studies in that institution – they are usually the best source of information.
- **The Virtual Learning Environment**: this system for delivering learning materials to students via the web should be easy and friendly to access and to go around. The areas should be clearly identified and materials and communication channels should be at hand. If you need a long time to learn how to move around in your virtual classroom, you will lose valuable time to study.
- **The Study Material**: a good course includes material of several types – audio files, video files, interactive exercises and quizzes, pictures and standard plain texts to suit all learning styles. They should also be available in formats and sizes that are appropriate for easy downloading and on-line viewing. Increasingly, virtual learning mixes interactive learning environments blurring the distinction between distance and conventional learning. The virtual campus should also enable you to work together with classmates and support each other along the course. Face-to-face sessions might be offered in some subjects, depending on the requisites of each course of studies.
- **Time availability**: studying at a distance gives you the **flexibility** of choosing the place and time to study while following the schedule of the semester and combining this with work and family life. However, a good distance course will probably take as much effort and study time as its traditional equivalent. Make sure you allow yourself enough time to study, so as to take full advantage of the course of studies you are doing, and mistrust courses that tell you that they will be easier or less demanding because they are at a distance.

- **The Tutor:** check that there is a study advisor as well as a knowledgeable faculty in charge of the subjects. The tutor should be available for contact by phone, email or online. The role of tutor is essential to guiding you in your first steps in studying at a distance and organizing yourself as an autonomous learner. Check whether it is possible to ask for appointments or interviews and also check how often teachers answer messages. Personal assistance is vital to keep students motivated!

Instituto Privado Incorporado a la Enseñanza Oficial “Cultural Inglesa de Buenos Aires” A-1301 is renowned for its quality in both traditional and distance courses, with more than 35 years in the market as an Institute specialized in the teaching of English and 14 years dedicated to distance learning programmes as well delivered via Moodle. CIBA offers both official courses of studies and short and intensive distance courses.

Tertiary Official courses of Studies (at a distance) – regular enrolment in March and August and also enrolment in May and October

- Profesorado de Inglés
- Traductorado Literario y Técnico-Científico en Idioma Inglés

Short Distance Intensive Courses

- Inglés Básico para Turismo
- Cursos de Lectocomprensión en Idioma Inglés - Niveles I-II-III
- First Certificate On-line Intensive Training Programme
- Cambridge Advance On-line Intensive Training Programme
 - Curso de Introducción a la Semiología y a la Semiótica
 - Escritura por Proceso (Process Writing)
- Curso de Perfeccionamiento en Lengua Inglesa (Válido como Curso de ingreso a las Carreras Terciarias Oficiales)
- Curso Intermedio en Lengua Inglesa

Distance 5-month Intensive Courses

- English in all levels
- German for beginners

For more information about our institution or course please visit us at <http://www.cibadist.edu.ar> or contact us our Head office.