

Title: Rushin' to keep up with today's online teaching and learning tools: A demonstration of innovative online Russian language learning.

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At the University of Toronto (UofT) we introduced an Online Learning Pilot Project to test the possibility of providing online courses for students across various disciplines and across its three campuses. While some faculties have courses with online components and a few courses completely online, there is no university-wide distance education program at UofT. This session presents a case study of the processes and outcomes of placing a face-to-face Russian language course onto a fully online learning environment. We consider this one model of online language learning, which provided an opportunity to attract UofT students across all campuses who might otherwise not consider taking this course.

The objectives of our case study were to evaluate (i) the logistics of teaching a language course online, (ii) the pedagogical value and associated teaching strategies, and (iii) instructor and student perceptions of the efficacy of this type of teaching and learning. We discuss our successes and failures of creating, delivering and assessing an online language course, and share tips for developing similar courses. Participants are invited to share their experiences and teaching strategies with online learning.

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