

## **ONLINE COURSES APPLIED IN LANGUAGE LEARNING: EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM ATTENDING AN ONLINE LANGUAGE COURSE OFFERED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN (UIB)**

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In this virtual presentation I will share the experiences I gained while attending an online Norwegian language course at the University of Bergen. The course was open to both national and international applicants, provided that they could document Norwegian language skills equaling at least level B1 on the CEFR scale. As a result of this rather strict requirement, the course mostly attracted highly educated individuals with master or doctoral degrees. The course proved particularly useful to learners that were rather well familiarized with the Norwegian education system and working life, as well as with the linguistic peculiarities of the Norwegian language. The participants also tended to be individuals who had lived in Norway for a number of years and wished to either improve their career opportunities or to educate themselves further at Norwegian universities or colleges. This online course is one of the more recent courses offered by the University of Bergen, and is a great example of how new technology can be utilized to bring more flexibility into traditional language learning. My virtual presentation will use this particular course as an example of how a purely online language course can be delivered in a successful way. I will present how the individual participants worked with provided course material combined with synchronous online teaching. I will also demonstrate how feedback was delivered and what results were achieved at the end of the course. Particular attention will be paid to how effectively the online final exam was carried out and what is needed to successfully carry out such an exam, regardless of where in the world the participants are located. By way of illustrations we will stay in visual touch with the course deliverer University of Bergen, the capital of Western Norway, a seaport city with rich history and heritage.