Developing a Student Guide for Open & Distance Learning
Objectives

At the end of this module you will be able to:

- Identify the characteristics of an effective student guide
- Distinguish between the types of student guides
- Discuss the principles for developing a student guide
- Develop an effective student guide
Instruction:
Identify four types of learner support materials that you have previously produced for one of your courses.

Explain the purpose these materials serve in aiding the learner.
Definition of a Student Guide

In the context of open and distance learning (ODL), a student guide is a tool that promotes:

- Independent learning
- Learner interactivity
- Deep learning
Definition of a Student Guide

- It is a resource that provides academic and administrative learner support throughout the course.
Purpose of a Student Guide

- To assist the student in interactive, self-directed learning
- Provides opportunities for independent learning
- Teaches users how to learn
- Develops a unique set of technical, research and critical thinking skills
- Facilitates high level of thinking and learning
Instruction:
Discuss whether or not the use of a learner's guide makes a difference to learning in an ODL environment.

Suggest four reasons to justify your view.
Types of Student Guides

- There are two (2) types of student guides:
  - Academic Guides
  - Administrative Guides
Academic Guides

This type of guide includes information related to the following areas:

- Learning Strategies
- Outcomes
- Assessment
- Content
- Learning tools
Administrative Guides

- This type of guide includes information related to the general principles and policies of the institution.
Critical aspects include:
- Testing and examination regulations
- How to obtain technical assistance
- Means of obtaining financial assistance
- Policies related to assignments
- Policies related to absenteeism/dropout
Instruction:
Discuss whether or not the use of a learner's guide makes a difference to learning in an ODL environment.

Suggest four reasons to justify your view.