

## FBL 22nd June 2021 - Today's Roadmap

KAREN FOLEY: Good morning, everybody, and welcome to the Student Hub Live Faculty of Business and Law Showcase called "Navigating the New Normal." Well, it's summer. I'm here in West Wales, but everything's not quite as normal as it was maybe 15 months ago. We're now broadcasting from our own homes, and I've got a stack of wonderful academics here today to discuss some of the key issues that we've learnt from lockdown and thinking about how perspectives from Business and Law can help us to navigate the new normal.

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Karen Foley. I'm a lecturer at the Open University, and I also present the Student Hub Live which is the OU's platform for academic community. And here is our online virtual space to discuss some of the issues that are concerning us, to be able to talk about how our studies are going, and also to be able to inspire and motivate each other. And I can see from that chat that some of you are level 3 and 4 and really looking forward to keeping going with your studies, and I'm hoping that today's discussions give you some food for thought and inspiration to keep going.

So today, it's a space for you, as I've said, and we have a lovely chat box. We also, as Angela explained before in the chat, have lots of widgets or polls or tools that we can use. So you should be able to see a map there that you can let us know where you are in the country.

There are also other questions, like how are you feeling. And for some of these word clouds, we need you to populate the three boxes. Of course, we can't always think of three things. So if you can't think of three, just put one. And then put a dot or a full stop in the other boxes, and your results will submit them. When you've interacted with those, you can also see what the people at home think also. So that's always a good thing to do.

And throughout the programme, we'll be having lots of different widgets popping up so that you can let us know. Some of those relate to the conversations and some of them are all your ideas. There's no right or wrong in this space. We just ask that everyone respect each other and as kind as possible. But you may want to talk about your cake, your stationary obsession, what you're going to do over the summer, which modules you're studying, where you are, and of course, ask any questions to our panel.

Now the chat can sometimes move a little bit quickly, and there's a pin button on the top right. Equally, you may choose just to listen to what we're saying and watch the video stream. And of course, this will be available to you on catch up later. So it's your choice about how you use these next few hours to engage with other students, but make sure that it's right for you. You can change the interface and make the larger or smaller, depending on your preferences, so play around. Rest assured, you cannot break the system.

So we have a really fun programme. I'd like to introduce you to a couple of people. First, I'd like to introduce you to Christine Mera who has been working very hard on putting this programme together.

Christine, how are you today, and what can you tell us a bit about what we've got lined up for everyone at home?

CHRISTINE MERA: Thank you, Karen. I'm fine. I hope you are and everybody around listening to us today is well today too. We've got a fun day ahead. We've got some really interesting speakers on all different aspects of business and law. We've got different insights that we can bring, we feel, to this whole complex situation that we found ourselves all in over the last 18 months.

And going forward, it's going to be a matter of lots of changes over the next few months for everybody in all aspects of life. So we think it's a really interesting topic. It's very, very topical, obviously, but people are maybe slightly fed up now with various restrictions. But we can see what we're going to do looking forward. So we're looking forward to seeing how we can take what we know, what we've been learning, and share, so really looking forward to some really exciting discussions today.

KAREN FOLEY: Now what's interesting, Christine, is that many of the disciplines around the university have perspectives on all of this. What's so particular about, I guess, the lenses that we're looking through today in terms of business and law? What are some of the key concerns, and what do you think is going to add to that rich discussion by just focusing on these areas?

CHRISTINE: Yeah, that's a really good question, Karen. Thank you. So, for us, we think that-- well, we know that business is always about looking at your environment, considering how aspects of the environment could potentially adversely or positively affect your business, looking for opportunities as well as the threats, seeing how to address those. We know also that legislation is key for business and for all our lives. And so understanding the legal perspective and maybe some of the pitfalls is really, really helpful. So we think that we've got some really exciting insights that we can gain from this.

KAREN FOLEY: Brilliant. Thank you. And I'm sure we're going to have lots and lots of discussions throughout the day. Now, putting your questions to our panel, who we have lined up, is the lovely Emily. And we also have George and Katharina in our chat. But Emily is going to come into our studio and share your thoughts at home. And this is a new role for you, Emily, so I'm very warm welcome.

You're typing furiously at the chat and speaking to other students. Can you tell us what's going on at home for people who are watching now? Oh, I think we've got you on mute, Emily. Let's see if we can unmute you. It's always so much better with sound. There we are.

EMILY WOOD: It is. A rookie mistake, isn't it? That's why. It's the only thing that keeps us in line these days, Zoom meetings and things, and then going, you're on mute. I can't hear you.

KAREN FOLEY: You're hand's up.

EMILY WOOD: So I'm really sorry.

KAREN FOLEY: It's fine, Emily.

EMILY WOOD: Yeah. So you could hear me now, so good. Yeah, so I'm up in Manchester. I'm based there, but obviously my team works down in Milton Keynes. It's really exciting to get to work on the chat box and just look at what everyone's talking about because I think you'll agree that, generally, we're all in awe of OU students.

I'm just having a little look through. And there's people talking about they've just got one module left to go. It's been really hard. Obviously, the pandemic hasn't made it easier, but the rest of the studies are complete. So I think most OU study students can relate to that. You invest so much in your studies, and you work so, so hard for such a long time and one module to go. So yes, that was David Woods. So you're nearly there, David. Keep going, keep going.

And then there's other people saying, yeah, looking forward to this event. Yeah, I think everyone's just eager to get chatting, really. And it's nice that everyone can share their experiences and things because it's not an easy undertaking, studying with the OU. And I have to say, everyone works so hard. So it's good to share ideas and tips. Looking forward to the day and chatting with people.

KAREN FOLEY: Brilliant. Well, thank you, Emily. So make sure you let us know when there are points that we'd like to include in our discussions, and, of course, fill in those word clouds, et cetera. So we've got a really exciting programme lined up. And what we're going to do is introduce a couple of guests at a time and focus on different topics of conversation. I'm also going to play some videos in between the breaks so that you can nip off and grab a cup of tea and a biccyy, so that you can keep refreshed and entertained, as we hope to spend the next couple of hours with you today.

So we're going to show you a brief video now, and then we're going to come back and kick off with the first of our key discussions. We're going to be talking about learnings from lockdown with Alan and Daniel. So join me after this short video, and we'll kick off and get your thoughts on how it's all been for you at home, too. See you then.

[MUSIC PLAYING]