

Lync and Adobe Connect for meetings and teaching remotely

	Lync	Connect
About	A free part of Office 365 – all staff and students already have a Lync account associated with their University identity	Annual subscription: licenses allocated on an individual basis approx. £130/pa for one person (who can generate as many meetings as
	www.ncl.ac.uk/itservice/lync	http://www.ncl.ac.uk/itservice/videoconferencing/softwarevideoconferencing/adobeconnect/
Requirements meeting host	A Lync account; Lync client installed or web app.	A allocated licence for Connect; Connect add-in required for screen sharing
Requirements (attendees)	A Lync account is not required – attendees can join a scheduled meeting if they can install the web app browser plug-in (not required in Internet Explorer). Attendees have to have a microphone attached.	Flash
Mobile requirements (attendees)	Mobile Lync apps from app stores AND a Lync account Mobile clients only support video/audio (no screen sharing)	Android and iOS mobile clients
Roles	Organiser, Presenter, Attendee	Host, Presenter, Attendee
Meeting Features		
Present PowerPoints	Yes	Yes
Share applications and screens	Yes	Yes
Text chat	Yes	Yes
Whiteboards	Yes	Yes
Breakout rooms	No	Yes
Play and control videos	No	Yes (upload MP4 / YouTube plugin)
Share files	Yes	Yes
See multiple webcams	Yes	Yes
Mute and control attendees audio	Yes	Yes
Polls	Yes	Yes
Dedicated Q&A facility	Only on PC clients	Yes
Presenter only area	No	Yes
Custom meeting URLs	No	Yes
Set Bandwidth	Fixed	Settings for LAN / ADSL / Modem
Record meetings	Yes (saved locally as mp4)	Yes (available online)
Desktop Sharing / Control	Yes	Yes
Terminology		
	Present content on “The Stage” – only one element on the stage at a time.	Add “pods” to the meeting. You can view and present multiple pods at once.

Reasons why Connect may be a better choice for teaching:

1. With Connect the presenter has control of the screen layout
 - a. Arrange pods on the screen
 - b. Add custom pods (eg YouTube)
 - c. Less confusing for users
2. Guest access to Connect meetings is easy (flash vs need to install Web App browser plug-in)
3. Better consistency of experience across devices with Connect (eg. no screen sharing for Lync mobile clients, no polling with Lync on Mac client) – easier for those planning meetings
4. Host control over meeting bandwidth
5. Breakout Rooms in Connect
6. Backstage area for presenters (presenter only area – share notes and queue content)
7. Create custom URLs with Connect
8. Better handling of multimedia files in Connect – control and play video clips from Connect
9. Recordings saved on the Connect server rather than locally - set private, public or password protected

Reasons why Lync may be better for meetings between university staff and other Lync users:

1. No cost, integrated with university id and email
2. Create meetings from within Outlook or from an Instant Message conversation
3. Easy to get started – you can initiate a voice and video call really easily (like Skype) and then add extra meeting features as required.
4. High quality video/audio – support for HD webcams
5. Instant Messaging and presence information allows for quick, ad-hoc communication
6. Searchable University address book

Watch out for....

Microsoft have bought Skype, you can already do voice and video calling between Lync and Skype. In 2015 Lync will be rebranded “Skype for Business” and will look more like Skype.

Trying these Out

Lync	Connect
Get the Lync client http://www.ncl.ac.uk/itservice/lync/lyncclient/ Sign in http://www.ncl.ac.uk/itservice/lync/signinginfo/	Sign up for a free account http://www.adobe.com/uk/products/adobeconnect.html