

# MHS eLearning Update

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The University of Manchester

## Planning to use online summative exams?

### Preparing for online exams

- Are you are planning to use *online summative exams* **outside** the scheduled examination period?
- Would you like support from the eLearning team in preparation and delivery of the exams?

Please contact the team via [elearning@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:elearning@manchester.ac.uk) for further advice. Early liaison will enable us to plan for support which it may not be possible to provide at short notice.

### Useful knowledge base articles



- Blackboard 9: A quick introduction for staff ([link](#))
- How to find reusable online teaching resources ([link](#))
- How to set up a Turnitin (Tii) assignment ([link](#))—please check with the eLearning team about appropriate settings to use.

## Do you know about BoB?

Box of Broadcasts (BoB) is an off-air recording and media archive service that allows TV and radio programmes to be scheduled for recording. The recordings can then be easily embedded within Bb9.

It is possible to edit the start and end point of clips using the BoB interface so that students are given a more focused piece of media.

For instructions on how to create clips in BoB see [How to Create a Clip in Box of Broadcasts](#).

For instructions on embedding BoB resources in your Blackboard course see [Embedding Video into Blackboard 9](#).

For further information contact your Faculty eLearning team ([elearning@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:elearning@manchester.ac.uk))

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### Key things to note

- Are you using online summative exams?
- Do you know about BoB?
- Useful resources
- DigiLab event



## eLearning Governance

### Online Learning Strategy Group

The Online Learning Strategy Group (OLSG) replaces the Online Education Strategy Group (OESG) and the Distance Learning Strategy Group (DLSG). It brings together nominated representatives from the Faculties and PSS Directorates to ensure that The University of Manchester takes a strategic approach to “support individualized, blended and distance learning” (Goal 2, Manchester 2020). In particular, the Group is responsible for providing strategic leadership for:

- the development of the University’s Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and associated tools to support teaching and learning;
- the development, delivery, support and promotion of distance-learning (DL) provision, including massive open online courses (MOOCs).

The group will be chaired by Prof Richard Reece, Associate Vice-President for Teaching, Learning and Students.

The representatives for MHS are Dr Roger Harrison, Institute of Population Health and Dr Jane Mooney, Manchester Medical School.

The first meeting of the group is scheduled for 30 October 2015.

### What would you like to see in the eLearning Update?

Tell [diane.bennett@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:diane.bennett@manchester.ac.uk)

## Ensuring the stability of Blackboard



In order to ensure the stability of Blackboard it is sometimes necessary to undertake essential maintenance of the system.

From 27 September we will be scheduling regular maintenance of Blackboard from 2am-5am BST on Sunday mornings. This will include approximately 30 minutes downtime. Please be aware of this when planning work.

### Key dates for Blackboard 9

This [article](#) provides a list of key dates, including the course unit life cycle (when courses become visible to student and staff, and when they are no longer available).

Reminder: the provisional dates for annual maintenance of Blackboard during the Easter vacation are 4pm on Thursday 31 March until 12.01am on Monday 4 April 2016. Please bear these dates in mind when planning teaching and learning activities.

## Useful resources



### **My Learning Essentials The Library's award-winning skills programme**

My Learning Essentials, produced by The University of Manchester Library, is a comprehensive programme of online resources, workshops and drop-ins designed to support students' personal and professional development. The online resources are available at all times, providing flexible support for development from undergraduate to postgraduate level and beyond. The My Learning Essentials programme is run by The University of Manchester Library in collaboration with other services across campus. The Library won the Innovative Blended Learning category of the 2014 Blackboard Catalyst Awards for the My Learning Essentials skills programme.

<http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/services-and-support/students/support-for-your-studies/my-learning-essentials/>

### **ASK Academic Skills, Brunel University**

The Academic Skills Service at Brunel University have revamped their online study skills videos aimed at undergraduate students. This includes a suite of new tutorials relating to the writing process, being critical, structuring, dissertations, and preparing for exams. All the videos are bite size in length, offering digestible chunks of guidance regarding common academic writing concerns. There are also a variety of downloadable handouts and activities for students to access. For first year undergraduates there is also online content to help prepare them for university life and study with videos introducing them to the assessments and learning styles they will become familiar with. Feedback is welcome—comments should be sent to [danielle.tran@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:danielle.tran@brunel.ac.uk)

### **PILOT: information literacy training resource from Glasgow**

A new mobile friendly version of PILOT, the information literacy training resource, is up and running at <http://www.gcu.ac.uk/library/pilot/> - no login is needed. PILOT aims to: provide a holistic overview of searching, information and the rapidly changing world of scholarly communication; cover aspects of the publication process, including open access and internet publishing plus subject and institutional repositories; give information on bibliographic software, copyright, referencing and plagiarism. The intention is to make this available as an OER once a new repository (EdShare@GCU) is up and running. Feedback on this resource is welcome: [ddil@gcu.ac.uk](mailto:ddil@gcu.ac.uk)

### **Next DigiLab event**

### **#UoMDigiLab**

DigiLab is a space provided by the library in which students can try out new technology, such as 3D printers, Oculus Rifts, and brain-sensing headbands, and other apps/software/equipment which can help students keep track of notes and organise their life.

Please encourage your students to attend the [next DigiLab event](#) on **Wednesday 14 October 2015**. Drop in between **10am and 4pm**.  
Venue: **Atrium of the Alan Gilbert Learning Commons**.



<http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/services-and-support/students/services/digilab/>

## Conferences and events

20 Oct 2015 London	Transforming the Delivery of Higher Education Through Online Learning	<a href="https://www.insidegovernment.co.uk/event-details/transforming-the-delivery-of-higher-education-through-online-learning/554">https://www.insidegovernment.co.uk/event-details/transforming-the-delivery-of-higher-education-through-online-learning/554</a>
21 Oct 2015 Bradford	Team-Based Learning Conference ( <a href="#">TBL</a> )	<a href="https://www.universe.com/events/team-based-learning-leading-educational-change-tickets-bradford-5W4XCG">https://www.universe.com/events/team-based-learning-leading-educational-change-tickets-bradford-5W4XCG</a>
29-30 Oct 2015 Hatfield, UK	14th European Conference on e-Learning ( <a href="#">ECEL-2015</a> )	<a href="http://academic-conferences.org/ecel/ecel2015/ecel15-home.htm">http://academic-conferences.org/ecel/ecel2015/ecel15-home.htm</a>
29-30 Oct 2015 University of Hagen, Germany	The Online, Open and Flexible Higher Education Conference ( <a href="#">EADTU2015</a> )	<a href="http://conference.eadtu.eu/">http://conference.eadtu.eu/</a> <a href="http://conference.eadtu.eu/scope-themes">http://conference.eadtu.eu/scope-themes</a>
1-4 Nov 2015 San Antonio, Texas	Quality Matters 7th Annual Conference on Quality Assurance in Online Learning ( <a href="#">QM2015</a> )	<a href="https://www.qualitymatters.org/events">https://www.qualitymatters.org/events</a>
9 Nov 2015 Bromsgrove	Blended Learning—A Whole College Approach (Heart of Worcestershire)	<a href="http://www.wortech.ac.uk/BlendedLearning-AWholeCollegeApproach.aspx">http://www.wortech.ac.uk/BlendedLearning-AWholeCollegeApproach.aspx</a>
25 Nov 2015 London	Leading the Learning Landscape Network Event (Technology Enhanced Learning)	<a href="http://www.lfhe.ac.uk/en/programmes-events/index.cfm/leading-the-learning-landscape-Network-Event">http://www.lfhe.ac.uk/en/programmes-events/index.cfm/leading-the-learning-landscape-Network-Event</a>
2-4 Dec 2015 Berlin	Online Educa Berlin 2015 (ALT member discount available) ( <a href="#">OEB2015</a> )	<a href="http://www.online-educa.com/">http://www.online-educa.com/</a> ( <a href="https://www.alt.ac.uk/members-area/member-offers-and-discounts">https://www.alt.ac.uk/members-area/member-offers-and-discounts</a> )
9-11 May 2016 Lancaster	Networked Learning Conference ( <a href="#">NLC2016</a> )	<a href="http://www.networkedlearningconference.org.uk/">http://www.networkedlearningconference.org.uk/</a>

## Team news

Javid Ahmad has now moved from supporting HCSA programmes to provide more general support across the Faculty.

**Current work** for the team includes:

- completing Start of Year activities in order to ensure that all course units have up-to-date content in the support folders;
- supporting the development of a number of blended or online distance learning programmes;
- contributing to updates of Knowledge Base articles;
- participating in periodic review activities;
- participating in stakeholder meetings;
- development projects, including Smallvoice (MPS), iPad projects, and portfolio pilot projects (MPS and Inflammation & Repair).

