

# Student Design Group Workshop: From Blackboard to Canvas

In November 2024, FLP colleagues and Student Design Partners hosted a workshop to gather student insights on training and communication preferences for UoM's transition from Blackboard Learn to Canvas.

A total of **48** students attended the workshop and provided feedback.

## Student Training Needs & Preferences



- Video tutorials emerged as a recurring preference, particularly for step-by-step guidance on using Canvas features.
- Written instructions were also a popular choice, indicating the importance of easily accessible, clear documentation.
- Interactive formats, like online guides or workshops, were also mentioned by some students as preferred learning methods.
- The features students want to learn more about include access to lecture slides and materials, calendar functions, and lecture recordings.



## Student Communication Preferences

There is a general desire for streamlined communication and simple, accessible training or instructions.



- Emails dominate as the primary communication channel, with university-wide and school/faculty emails receiving the highest combined votes (**65**), while Student Union emails are also popular (**29 votes**).
- However, students reported feeling overwhelmed by the amount of emails they received, highlighting the need for targeted emails to avoid this.



- Instagram is a well-used social media platform, with Official UoM (25 votes) and Student Union Instagram (20 votes) significantly outpacing TikTok (4 votes) and Facebook (1 vote).



- Other platforms show varied engagement, with moderate use of the University website and Student News website, but low reliance on Blackboard Announcements, My Manchester, and the Student Union website.

## Workshop Evaluation & Next Steps



- Overall, the participants appreciated the engaging, well-organised workshop, scoring facilitators **4.9/5** and overall experience **4.71/5**.
- Students commented that it was “very well conducted”, “super interactive and fun”, and “helped me the understand the mechanisms of Canvas”.



- The insights we have gained will be used to shape the transition and training plans ahead of the University's move to Canvas in September 2025.
- Sign up to our mailing list to get involved in future opportunities to input to Canvas.