

FBMH Canvas Central Newsletter

Issue 1
May 2025



elearning.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/canvas



FBMH eLearning Community (Viva Engage)

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Preparing for the Canvas transition

We have a dedicated web page for the University's replacement for Blackboard, including the implementation timeline, training and support, access to self-led learning, and details of how to access your Canvas sandbox to familiarise yourself with our new CLE.

The FBMH eLearning Team has developed a training plan tailored to your role and current Blackboard use. We will be offering both scheduled training and "just-in-time" support (such as drop-ins and Live Chat support) to meet your needs.

You'll receive details on how to book on your courses at the right time, but if you have any questions about this process, please get in touch.

[Contact FBMH eLearning](#)

Say Goodbye to Blackboard and Hello to Canvas



Lisa Donlan:
eLearning Technologist

Blackboard to Canvas Migration: What You Need to Know

The University is working with an external provider, K16, to support the migration of Blackboard course content into Canvas. This content is being transferred into holding courses, which you can use to build your course for the 2025/26 academic year.

Semester 1 Courses

All Semester 1 course units have now been successfully migrated. You can find your migrated content on Canvas in a course titled: BB_MIGRATION-[Your Course Unit Code]

These courses will never be student-facing, but they contain your 2024/2025 Blackboard content ready for you to use in building your 2025/26 delivery.

Semester 2 and Year-Long Courses Coming Soon

Migration of Semester 2 and year-long courses will begin in June, with content available on Canvas from July.



Get Ready for 2025/26: Join Our Training

To make the most of your migrated content, please book onto Canvas training sessions: <https://elearning.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/training/canvas-training/> You'll learn how to adapt and build your 2025/26 course using your newly migrated materials.

Can't Find Your Course?


If you don't see your migrated Semester 1 unit on Canvas, please get in touch with eLearning and we'll investigate for you.

What Students need to know



SAY GOODBYE TO BLACKBOARD


SAY HELLO TO CANVAS



GET READY TO SAY GOODBYE TO BLACKBOARD


From September 2025, Blackboard will no longer be part of your learning at The University of Manchester.

We're bringing you Canvas. A world-leading, user-friendly Central Learning Environment set to enhance your student experience.



Make sure you're ready for the move and have everything you need from Blackboard. Download your materials before September 2025.

Follow the QR code for more info.



Student communications have been and will continue to go out regarding our CLE transition. The main point we wish the student body to know is: download anything you may wish to look back on for example feedback and submissions. This message is going out via the Student news and UOM social media accounts.



VISIT OUR ROADSHOW!

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CANVAS

29 April	Nancy Rothwell Building	10 - 2PM
30 April	University Place	10 - 2PM
6 May	Main Library	10 - 2PM
8 May	Students' Union	11 - 3PM

Assessment Deep Drive, Mid Point Update

Canvas supports five assignment types: Assignments, Discussions, Quizzes, External Tools, and Not Graded. Canvas offers a multitude of assessment opportunities using either the built-in features or through LTIs integrated into the UOM Canvas framework.

The type of assessment selected and configured for students will reflect the skills, knowledge and behaviours that will be assessed within a particular unit delivery schedule. There are numerous ways to assess students, both formatively and summatively, using the Canvas assignment types available. Additional LTIs integrated into Canvas will provide specialist assessment opportunities, including Cadmus, Studio, Gradescope, MATLAB, Mobius, PebblePad, and peerScholar.

There are many advanced tools to facilitate effective management of assessments on Canvas course units. Assessments can be created and configured at any point in the academic year but made available to students only when published with (available and due) dates and times recorded. Once published and students have submitted, assignments cannot be unpublished.

Canvas Studio is a media application fully integrated into all elements of Canvas assessment. Media can be uploaded from several sources (and formats) into Studio, or media can be created, edited, and annotated using Studio/Screen Capture. Multiple in-video quizzes can be created in uploaded (for example, from YouTube) and recorded media. Media creation is browser sensitive, with the best options being Edge, Chrome and Safari. Firefox does work, but quite differently.

Assessment management can be further enhanced using Sections in Canvas. Sections can be created to subdivide students within a course and offer section-specific options such as varied due dates for assignments, discussions, and quizzes. Resources (assessments) can be allocated to specific groups of students based on their (for example, DASS) requirements. For larger cohorts of students, or for spiral programmes, using sections can ensure the effective management and allocation of assessments and associated resources.

Assignments can be organised into groups of your choosing, with names based on, for example, units, tutors, modules, semester periods, or learning outcomes. For each assessment, there are opportunities for marking using annotation tools, grading using marking rubrics and for overall assessment comments (audio, video, text or file upload). Marking rubrics cannot be downloaded from Turnitin and uploaded to Canvas due to incompatibilities. All marking rubrics must be rebuilt in Canvas.

There is a comprehensive Gradebook for each student or groups of students. Depending on the size of the student cohorts based on (pre-organised) Sections, Speedgrader and the Gradebook can be accessed used for specific sections. The Gradebook allows tutors to control and manage all aspects of (all) assessments from a single point on a course unit. Assessments can have timed release of both feedback and grades. Assessment moderation can be allocated to multiple moderators at a time.

Students can access assessments, feedback and grades created and released on each of their Canvas course units either through a PC or Mac, a tablet or laptop or on their mobile devices through the Canvas Student App. The Canvas Student App facilitates effective communication and notifications for students to help them keep track and up to date on all elements of their programmes. As with other Apps, the Canvas Student App must be regularly updated on their devices to maintain full security and functionality.

At the point of submission, student (summative) assessments can be submitted using the Turnitin Framework LTI. Turnitin Feedback Studio will no longer be used for marking and grading as this has moved to Canvas SpeedGrader and Gradebook. Turnitin similarity reports will still be produced for student submissions.

Quizzes / Exams

There are 12 different types of exam/quiz questions available in Canvas that can be used for formative and summative assessment. Although there are some differences with Blackboard with regards to quiz migration, these are minor with very little requirement for quiz rebuilding. In Canvas, although quizzes are created using the 'Quizzes' feature, due to their advanced configuration options, they are stored in both the Quizzes and Assignments sections. There are a number of settings for each quiz to enable and configure the deployment of exams/quizzes. There are, however, a small number of options that are not available in Canvas Quizzes. Quizzes cannot be of mixed deployment, for example, having randomised questions for part of an exam, and non-randomised questions for another part. You cannot create quizzes with parts or sections in which questions can be subdivided or grouped, each with their own deployment settings. Quiz answers cannot be prefixed with letters or numbers. Canvas has several settings to accommodate DASS requirements.

We will continue with the Assessment Deep Dive and report back in June.



Adrian Emerson:

Assistant eLearning
Manager FBMH

Meet one of our Student Advisors

As part of the CLE transition to Canvas it is important we include all users' voices and as such we have 7 student partners. In the next few newsletters we will include a little bit about their work with us.



Hi, my name is Alisha Hawkeswood, and I was born in Switzerland. I study Psychology at this university, and I really enjoy my course. Over the past two years I've taken on several roles within the university such as peer mentor and student ambassador, which have allowed me to interact with students across a wide range of courses.

These experiences have made me very aware of how differently university can be experienced depending on individual circumstances and needs. As the university transitions to Canvas, I care deeply about ensuring that all students are supported. It's an honour to be part of this process, and I'm excited and hopeful that we can work towards a smooth and inclusive transition.



Beth Warwick
PhD Student: NIHR SSCR

I applied to this particular project as I want to ensure that the student voice is heard and that the implementation is inclusive for all students. I like the concept of students as partners too, and I feel that it will be a useful role for both improving the student experience and developing my skill set for future employment.



Canvas Training Statistics

Our training team have spent months planning the training courses for the CLE transition, and we are proud to show you what they have done so far. As we progress through the CLE transition, more data will be available and, in turn, we will expand our reporting to you.

What is a training? “hit”: it is a point in time when an academic staff member took part in some training. It may be attending training, a drop-in or something else where we took attendance:

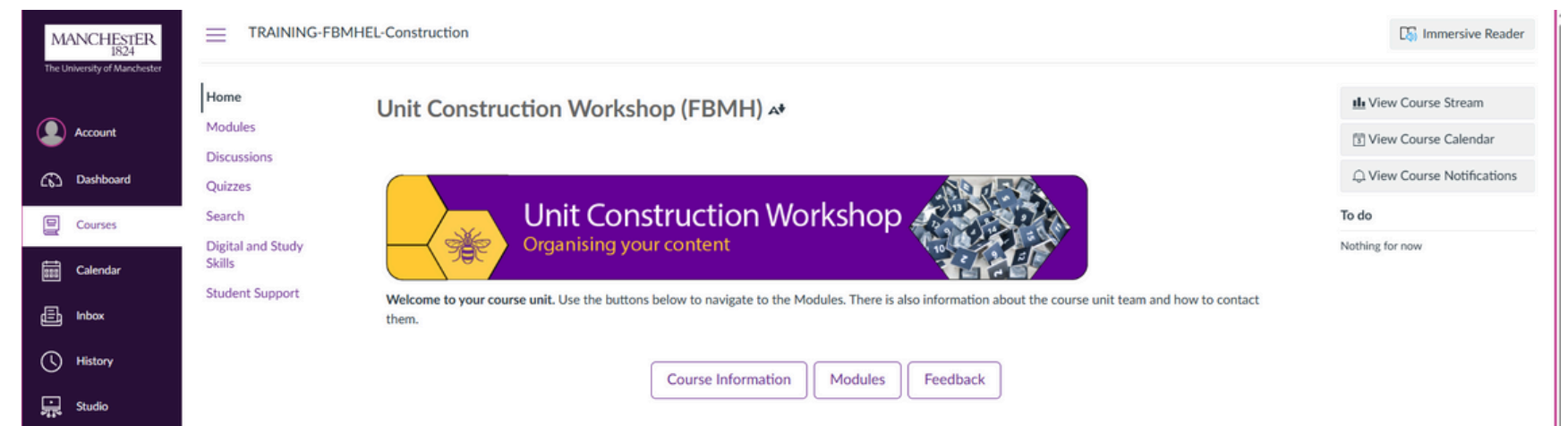
Total attendees at training events so far:

- Unit Construction Workshops (Unit Coordinators): 165
- Canvas Basics for OneMed (Teaching staff): 10
- PS Orientation to Canvas (PS): 51
- Drop-ins: 16

Total: 226

Events

- Total training sessions: 22
 - Unit Construction Workshops (includes Pioneers): 16
 - Canvas Basics for OneMed: 1
 - PS Orientation: 5
- Total drop-in sessions: 15



How many units in FBMH have had a Unit Coordinator or associated member of staff attend training: 198 (based on trainees providing course units in session)

We are offering groups of 10 or more colleagues the opportunity to work together on course development. You can select a training date which suits your group, please contact FBMHcontact@manchester.ac.uk with details.

Please do book on the training on our [website](#) to find the best training for you and your role. We don't want to run out of places later in the year.



**ALEXANDRA NUTTER:
ASSISTANT ELEARNING
MANAGER**

MEET OUR TEAM

I have recently joined the FBMH eLearning team and we have a lot of new starters in the last six months and felt it would be good in the CLE transition year for you to know who we are. So over the next few months we will introduce the team.

I have worked in Education for 18 years, I was a lecturer in FE & HE institutions and then moved into digital learning in 2017. I worked with academics to use VR and 'Go beyond substitution' with Ed Tech. I started at UOM in 2021 as a Learning Technologist in Educational Development where I worked with external & internal partners to share best practice and bring in new Apps.

I joined FBMH in January, my main areas of work have been or are; Canvas Custom Roles, Comms, NSS action plan support & supporting any other digital work as and when needed. As AELM, I Line manage eLearning Technologists, they in turn manage eLearning Support Officers and eLearning Support Assistants.

On a personal note, I love murder mystery books, the cinema and long walks in the countryside with my dogs.



**MEGAN BROADBENT:
ELEARNING SUPPORT
OFFICER**

My name is Megan Broadbent, and I am an eLearning Support Officer and a keen member of the Canvas training team! I've been at the university for a year and a half now, after spending time as a primary educator.

I'm incredibly proud of the 'Unit Construction' workshops and online course that our training team has created, and it's wonderful to hear the positive responses from our pioneers, who piloted the session and gave us invaluable feedback. The upcoming construction workshops are a fantastic opportunity to deepen your understanding of pedagogy, including why the Canvas modular structure is conducive to good learning for our students, and to learn best practices for teaching with Canvas. Through a series of workshops, we will focus on how to use the system effectively, as we strive to make the migration from Blackboard to Canvas as smooth as possible. While I have vast experience teaching children, I'm keen to step up to the challenge of leading unit construction workshops for academics. In the coming weeks, our team will begin creating the assessment and deployment workshops ready to deliver them in the coming months, and I am eager to develop my skills further by delivering forward-facing training.

In my role, I support the development of face-to-face training, asynchronous training, and the creation of eLearning provisions. Accessibility, equality, diversity, and inclusion are at the heart of everything I do. As the diversity champion for my team, I'm passionate about advocating for inclusivity and equitable access to education, which motivated me to take on this role. If you ever need support or advice, please feel free to contact me via Teams.

In my personal life, I have a passion for reading and literature, which has always been a big part of my life and an integral part of my teaching. I am currently reading 'Revolutionary Acts', which is a social history of Brixton's Black, gay community.

Canvas Microsite

Canvas Central

Canvas Training



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FBMH eLearning Community (Viva Engage)



FBMH eLearning (LinkedIn)



FBMH eLearning (Bluesky)



FBMH eLearning (YouTube)