

[View this email in your browser](#)

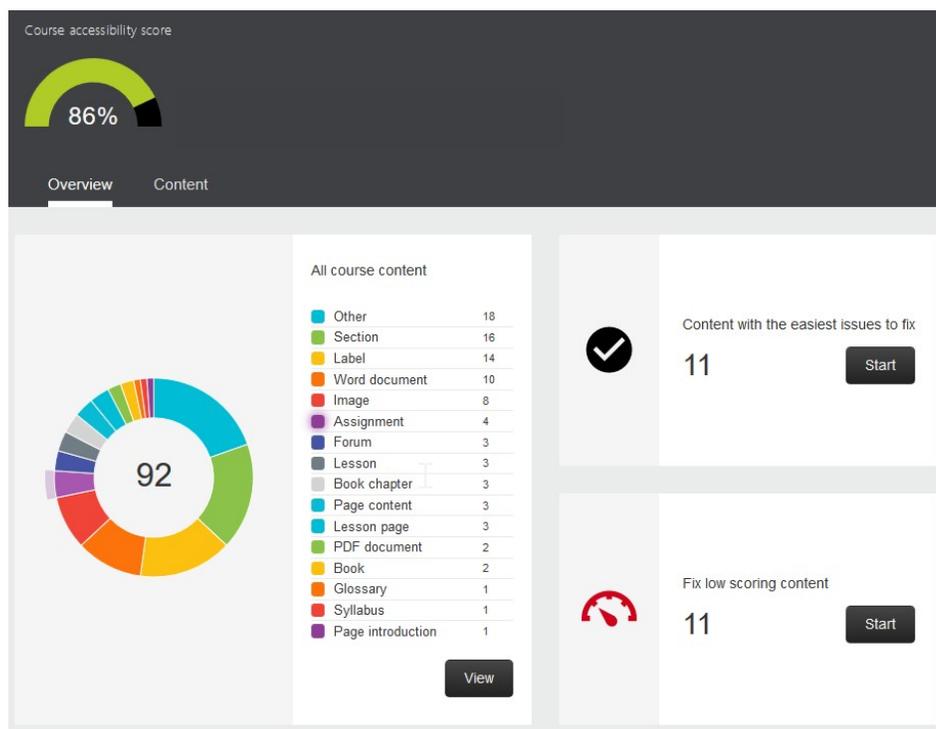


December issue

Issue 75, December 2019

A monthly newsletter for UCL E-Learning Champions and anyone else interested in digital education. Material is organised within six sections: **Need to Know**, **Case Study**, **What's on**, **Online & Distance Education**, **Working Towards the Baseline**, **Tech Focus**, and **Questions**. Please feel free to distribute and ask colleagues to subscribe via the link at the bottom of the newsletter.

Need to know



Check your Moodle course with Ally's course accessibility report

[Blackboard Ally](#) now includes a **course accessibility report** for every UCL Moodle course.

The course report shows you:

- a course accessibility score,
- a summary of the different types of content on your course, and
- a list of all the issues identified on your course, including an “easy to fix” summary and a “low scoring content” summary.

Read [our blog post](#) to find out more.

Give your views on UCL's IT services for education and win a £1000 device!



UCL is running the Jisc Digital Experience Insights survey alongside universities and colleges across the UK. This provides a unique snapshot of our IT services for teachers and students. The survey is open to all teachers, students and professional services staff across the institution.

As an incentive we are offering a prize draw with a first prize of a £1000 device with second prizes of 20 x £100 Amazon vouchers. Please promote the survey as widely as you can using the link: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/isd/survey>.

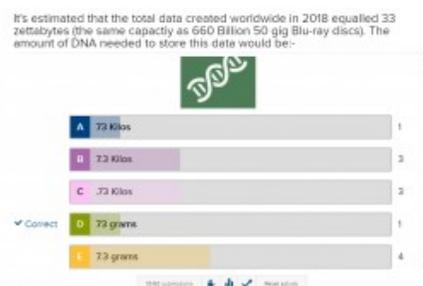
[Find out more and take the survey](#)

Dynamic teaching using Active Learning Platform tools

Active learning refers to any learning activity which involves the active participation of the student and it's not a new idea – [Active learning: Quick guide](#)

Beethan H. (2007) notes that students learn more effectively when they:

- are active
- are motivated and engaged
- can bring their existing capabilities into play
- are appropriately challenged
- have opportunities for dialogue
- receive feedback
- have opportunities for consolidation and integration



There are a wide range of learning technologies that can help support the process of active learning. Among those available to UCL staff are the engagement tools within Lecturecast. **Staff don't need to be using Lecturecast for recording** to take advantage of these tools. Existing presentations such as PowerPoint slides can be uploaded, and interactive elements e.g. polling slides easily added. For more information, see the full blog post on the [Digital Education blog](#).



Known issue: using Turnitin assignments?

Check the Post Date: assignments appearing anonymous but are not anonymous

There is currently an issue with Turnitin that may affect the anonymity of assignments. Turnitin is investigating this as matter of urgency but please visit the [Moodle Known Issues](#) page> Turnitin assignments: Check the Post date (assignments appear anonymous but are not) to determine whether an assignment is affected and what steps to take to ensure that assignment submissions remain anonymous.

Updates regarding this issue will be posted on the Moodle FrontPage ticker and the [Moodle Known Issues](#) page. If you have any concerns or queries, please contact the [Digital Education team](#).

Case Study

The [UCL Teaching and Learning Portal](#) contains news, resources, case studies and more to help you develop your teaching at UCL.

[Submit a case study to the UCL Teaching and Learning portal.](#)



Using LEGO to teach academic writing skills

In this case study, Dr Ross Purves, Associate Professor for Music Education at the Institute of Education, explains how 'playing' with LEGO® gave his students new perspectives, confidence, and skills in tackling their MA dissertations.

The dissertation write up represents a critical time in Master's students' academic careers and is often the time that students may lose confidence in their writing or become overwhelmed. Dr Purves planned and delivered a 'LEGO® Serious Play®' (LSP) inspired practical workshop on academic skills development in order to provide a lighthearted and supportive environment in which students could express and communicate their ideas.

Students found the workshop was a fun and refreshing way to look at academic expression, communicating in new ways and to new audiences. While challenging, they also found ways to review their dissertation progress and identify solutions that could help them overcome problems with their writing.

For more information, including Dr Purves's top five observations for implementing a similar workshop, [visit the UCL Teaching and Learning portal.](#)

What's on (and what's gone...)

Teaching and Learning with Reflect

Thursday 12th December, 14:00-16:00, Room G08, Chadwick Building

This is an informal drop-in event to launch UCL's Reflect User Group (RUG) face-to-face. It will provide an opportunity for current users, along with curious non-users, to hear what colleagues are doing with this learning technology, ask questions, network, exchange ideas and discuss any concerns.

[Register via Eventbrite](#)



Are you interested in Open Education?

Or... Have you only vaguely heard of it and would like to know more?

Join our new online community [Open Education @ UCL](#). Over the next few months we will be hosting a number of informal meetings and launching some collaborative projects.

Sound interesting? Then join the team and get involved!

Digital learning environment review: have your say!

Digital Education have been consulting about the future of our digital learning environment. We've started by interviewing staff and students and are now ready to report on these findings and widen the conversation to the whole UCL community.

To do this we have arranged three Town Hall style events to which you are very welcome. No need to book, just turn up. These are:

- Monday 16 December, 12-1pm, Medical Sciences AV Hill Lecture Theatre;
- Wednesday 8 January 2020, 3-4pm, Cruciform LT2.

We hope you can make it to one of these sessions. If you have any questions, please [contact Steve Rowett](#) in Digital Education.



Encourage your students to make light work of writing up!

Our student workshops take a new approach to learning by presenting you with a problem to be solved and encouraging you to use your prior experience, web searches, in-application help and fellow participants to find a solution to the task.

By the end of the session they will have improved problem-solving skills, an increased knowledge of the topic, a 'suggested solution' to the problem worked on and some resources and guidance for further learning.

Find out more in this [Sway](#) which you can share with students.

To book a place on any of our courses or workshops [visit the UCL training booking system](#).

Digital accessibility sessions

Briefings

New legislation on digital accessibility will affect nearly all UCL digital content. Briefing sessions explain the impact of the new legislation, why it is important, what action staff need to take, and what support will be available. To arrange a departmental briefing [please contact the Digital Accessibility team](#).

Drop ins

Drop in sessions are the place to ask individual questions and get tailored advice around how to make digital content more accessible. Sessions take place on Wednesday afternoons: see the [Digital Accessibility face-to-face sessions blog post](#) for further details.

Courses

Demand for the Creating Accessible Documents course has been high but new sessions are being added all the time. [Book a place on a course](#). If no places are available please [register an interest](#) to be notified of new dates.

Online & Distance Education

Our [FutureLearn MOOCs](#) are free to study and open to all. If you're a member of staff, delivering a MOOC can be an exciting way to engage the public and promote understanding and use of UCL research. [UCLeXtend](#), meanwhile, is UCL's public-facing learning platform and supports delivery of our range of non-credit bearing Life Learning CPD and short courses.

If you're interested in developing a MOOC or offering short courses via UCLeXtend, please contact the [UCLeXtend team](#).

Key Ideas in Mentoring Mathematics Teachers, 6th January 2020 (5 weeks; NEW COURSE)

Develop as a mentor of early career maths teachers through engagement with robust and up-to-date mathematics education research.

[Sign up via FutureLearn](#)

Airway Matters, 13th January 2020 (4 weeks; NEW COURSE)

Explore key concepts underlying safe, multidisciplinary airway management.

[Sign up via FutureLearn](#)

The Many Faces of Dementia, 20th January 2020 (4 weeks)

Explore the key issues in dementia care and research through stories, symptoms, and the science of four less common diagnoses.

[Sign up via FutureLearn](#)

Dementia and the Arts, 10th February 2020 (4 weeks)

Explore, challenge and shape your perceptions of dementia through science and the creative arts.

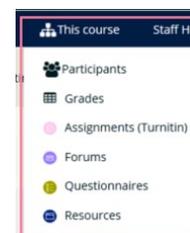
[Sign up via FutureLearn](#)

Tech focus

Navigation in Moodle - This Course

A quick and easy way to navigate a Moodle course is to use the **'This Course'** menu item found on the navigation bar of every Moodle course. Clicking on **'This course'** will display all the resources and activities included in a Moodle course – helpful if you are not sure which topic or section the activity or resource is placed in.

The **'This Course'** menu item also provides a quick link to the course enrolment page where you can view a list of participants on the course as well as manually enrol users.



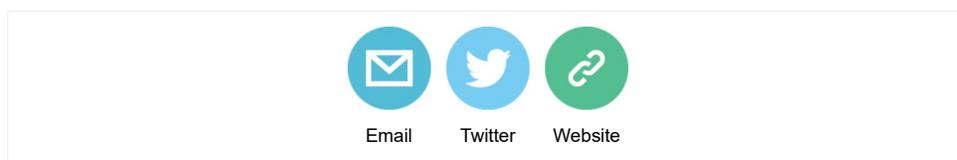
Questions

I'm running a summative quiz/exam on Moodle - What do I need to do?



If you are running a summative test or exam in Moodle, as well as referring to the [examination](#) and [e-examination](#) guidance in the Academic Manual, you should also refer to the Moodle Quiz for Online exams guidance to ensure you have set up the Quiz properly and have considered what to do in case anything goes wrong with the technology. [Advice on writing effective exam questions is also available.](#)

Note that Digital Education: digi-ed@ucl.ac.uk must be notified of any Moodle exams taking place at least four weeks before the scheduled exam is due to take place.



[Subscribe to this mailing list](#) (or unsubscribe below).

Questions or comments? Email Digital Education at digi-ed@ucl.ac.uk or call the ISD Service Desk 020 7679 5000 (ext. 25000).

Can't read this email? [Read this and previous newsletters on the UCL Wiki](#).

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
UCL · Gower Street · London, London WC1E 6BT · United Kingdom

