

February issue

Issue 45, February 2017

A monthly newsletter for UCL E-Learning Champions, and anyone else interested in learning technology, in five sections: **Need To Know**, **Learning**, **What's on**, **Tech Focus** and **Questions**. Please pass around and ask colleagues to subscribe via the link at the bottom.

Need to know

The UCL Moodle summer upgrade window has been confirmed

Friday 21st July 2017 5pm- Saturday 22nd July 2017 5pm.

Please note, unlike previous years, 'live' Moodle will only be unavailable for 24 hours. This is because there will not be a full Moodle upgrade this year. Students will therefore only be without ANY access to Moodle for 24 hours (Friday evening > Saturday evening). This is the time taken for the team to create the Snapshot which is then made immediately available.

The [Snapshot](#) is a complete copy of live Moodle and provides students with “read only” access to ALL of the material they had prior to the snapshot being taken.

What the [Snapshot](#) does not provide is the ability for students to take part in any activities, for example:-

- Submission of assignments via either Moodle or Turnitin
- Quiz based activities
- Posting new forum topics or replies

Please take this outage period into account when planning Moodle activities during **Friday 21st July 2017 5pm- Saturday 22nd July 2017 5pm.**

If the chosen date range does affect you in regard to Moodle usage that cannot be covered by the Snapshot e.g. an assignment submission or Moodle Exam date that cannot be altered, please contact us at digi-ed@ucl.ac.uk and we will work with you to provide an alternative solution for your requirements.

We've got the kit – tell us where to put it!

Students regularly tell us that UCL should provide more computers. Now ISD has secured additional funds to increase numbers both of desktops, and of laptops for loan. All we need now is space to put them! We've asked departments and students for suggestions.

[Read more and contribute your ideas about improving computer provision...](#)



We're also thinking of providing docking stations where you can bring your own laptop and connect it to a large monitor to save you from squinting at a small screen. Would you value this? Or would you prefer that we provide full computers rather than just the docking monitors.

Tell us what you think by emailing isd.morepcs@ucl.ac.uk or tweeting using [#morepcs4ucl](https://twitter.com/morepcs4ucl).

Learning

E-Learning Case Study

Streamlining marking and moderation on Moodle

Two teaching administrators from the UCL Division of Psychology and Language Sciences, in the Faculty of Brain Sciences, explain how assessment and feedback has been streamlined through using Moodle.



Hannah Spikesley explains "when I first started in my role as Teaching Administrator all marking and feedback on assessments was done on paper. It meant that the delay in returning marked essays became longer and longer, and this was the one thing that students would constantly complain about. This is turn meant that the preparation for an exam board was heavy work."

Pete Buchanan adds "Once markers have completed the spreadsheets provided on Moodle they can be uploaded by the teaching administrator to Portico without any need for transcription and eliminating the risk of transposition errors, the spreadsheet also provides a consistent format across modules on different programmes for reporting and scrutiny as required."

[Read more about streamlining marking and moderation on Moodle...](#)

Audio feedback

Spoken-word comments on students assessed work, recorded digitally and made available to each student to help explain how they could improve their work.

There is plenty of indicative evidence that audio feedback is beneficial for learning.

[Find out the benefits of using audio assessment feedback...](#)

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.](#)

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

MoodleMoot Ireland UK 2017 call for submissions

10 - 12 April 2017

Park Plaza Riverbank, London



The deadline for submitting presentation and poster proposals has been extended until **Friday 17th February 2017**.

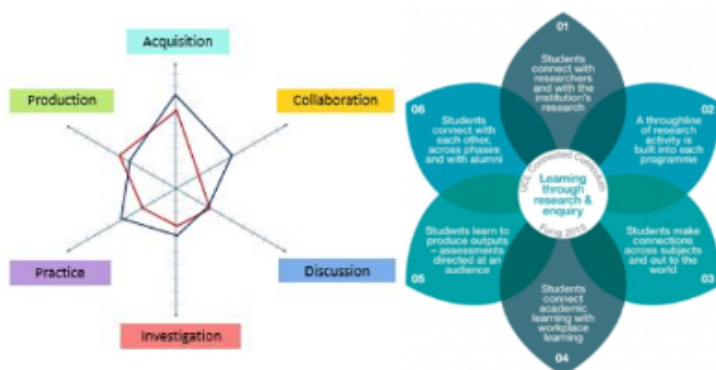
MoodleMoot conferences are held around the world, with a focus on encouraging collaboration and sharing of best practices of the open source learning platform.

MoodleMoot UK and Ireland 2017 (#mootieuk17) is being held on 10, 11 and 12 April at Park Plaza Riverbank, London.

Please click on the Register link for all information on conference packages, payment options and a direct link to book your spot for MoodleMoot UK & Ireland 2017.

[Register for MoodleMoot IE/UK 2017 now...](#)

Call for case study participants for UCL ACE (Action for Curriculum Enhancement) project



Are you designing a new programme or redesigning an existing programme? We are looking for programme teams across UCL to work with, using our popular rapid development method. Please [contact Clive Young](#) from the Digital Education Advisory team as soon as possible if you would like to be involved.

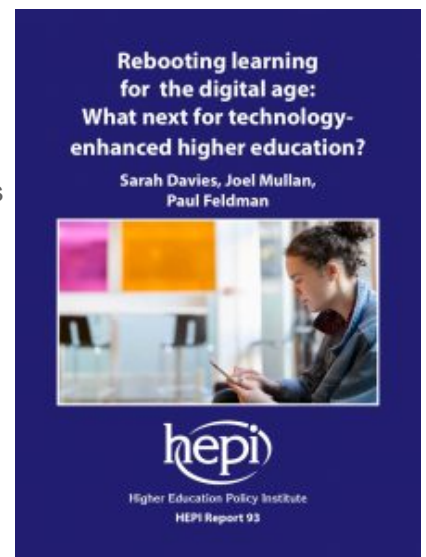
[More details about this HEFCE-funded project.](#)

[More about the ABC Learning design..](#)

Rebooting Learning for the digital age: What's next for technology-enhanced higher education?

The HE 'think tank', the Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI), has just published [Rebooting Learning for the Digital Age](#) (PDF 58pp) written by three JISC leaders Sarah Davies, Joel Mullan and Paul Feldman. The report reviews best practice around the world to show how technology is benefiting universities and students through better teaching and learning, improved retention rates and lower costs and though a list of seven recommendations calls on universities to embrace new technology to meet the various challenges faced by the sector.

[Read more about the report...](#)



Learn from each other: developing quality distance education and short courses



Short courses
Professional development
Executive education

UCL's Distance Education and Life Learning Forum have launched their 18 month workshop programme. Through a series of Arena events and Forum workshops they'll be sharing experiences and best practices to support staff in creating online learning and short courses/CPD. Browse the programme and sign up to the Forum to be kept up to date.

[See what Distance Education and Life Learning events are coming up...](#)

New Digital Skills Development dates now released

ISD Digital Skills Development have released new dates for the second half of term on Thursday. As usual, we are offering a wide range of courses covering Excel, Photoshop, RStudio, Matlab, LaTeX and more.

After a successful pilot last term we are pleased to be offering a Data Visualisation in R course again for those with a basic knowledge of working with datasets in R. Looking ahead to next term we have scheduled our hugely popular Python course led by Research IT Services. It starts in early May and runs for five consecutive Friday mornings.



[Find out what Digital Skills courses are available...](#)

Tech focus

Did you know...?

The **Moodle Snapshot** is available from the Services menu (at the top of Moodle), so UCL staff and students can reference Moodle course content and assignments from previous years, going back to 2009/10.

[Find out more about the Moodle Snapshot...](#)

Questions

How do I share teaching resources (like presentations and lectures) between staff in the department whom I invite to view them?

You could use SharePoint, which allows you to share a variety of content with a select audience and integrates with other parts of UCL's Office 365 environment.

SharePoint allows you to create, edit and share content between colleagues.

[Learn more about SharePoint on the ISD webpages.](#)

Have you got ideas or experience here?

If so, please do share them, either [via the Twitter hashtag #elearningUCL](#) or via the [Moodle Users forum](#).



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

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