

M46 - Blackboard Collaborate Ultra

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Please note that full support for use of Blackboard Collaborate can now be found in the dedicated [Blackboard Collaborate Resource Centre](#).

What is it?

An online classroom, web conferencing, or meeting platform designed for online teaching and learning. It enables students and staff to connect remotely from anywhere with an internet connection, incorporating audio, video, and visual cues, alongside a shared whiteboard and application sharing. Collaborate also features polling, a timer, and breakout rooms, and sessions can be recorded to be viewed at a later time.

Collaborate sessions are within a Moodle course via the 'Add an activity or resource' link.

Why use it?

Blackboard Ultra can be used in various ways to meet the learning needs or activities of your students, below are a few examples of what it has been used for.

- Online teaching/Lectures
- Tutorials
- Class Presentations
- Group Work
- Guest or External Speakers
- Q&A Panels
- Revision Lectures
- Flip lecturing
- Training Videos

Top benefits:

- Live Online Lecturing Platform
- Shared Whiteboard that all can view
- Sessions can be Recorded and are embedded automatically into Moodle
- Allows guest access to non UCL participants or presenters
- Students can present like teachers

Who can use it?

Usually Academics and Administrators will set up and moderate sessions, but students could also be given these permissions.

There is an option to allow external people without a UCL login to join sessions via an external link.

Before I Start.....

You will need your UCL Moodle account and a Moodle Course/Module on which to create an Ultra session. Firefox and Google Chrome are the recommended browsers.

Meeting the baseline

The [UCL E-Learning Baseline](#) suggests the following for **Orientation**:

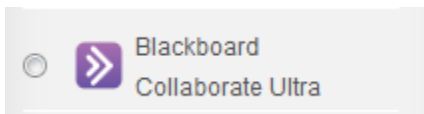
- **2.2 Explain participation requirements**
 - Identify which activities are compulsory and optional
 - Provide an **indicator of effort** (such as timings or page counts) for all compulsory tasks
 - Explain how students are expected to use UCL and external e-learning tools. This [PowerPoint Induction template](#) provides a starting point. Wholly online courses might provide this information as a screen-cast video, with a voice over
 - Link to **instructions** for any e-learning tools that students are expected to use.

For **Student Active Participation** it is suggested that:

- **9.1 Students can share learning resources** either individually or collaboratively using online tools (such as wikis, glossaries, databases and discussion forums).

How do I set one up?

Login to Moodle and click on your course and "Turn Editing On". Then in the appropriate topic of your course click on "**Add an Activity or Resource**" and select **Ultra**.



Lets go through each of the settings in turn:

General

Session name* [Text Input]

Description [Rich Text Editor]

Display description on course page

Start (Timezone: Europe/London) [Time: 6] [Month: July] [Year: 2017] [Day: 11]

Participants can join the session 15 minutes before start

Duration [Slider: 1 Hour]

Allow Collaborate guest access

Collaborate guest role [Dropdown: Presenter]

Callout 1: Choose one to describe the session (usually good to include the date and time of the session so it's clearly visible to students).

Callout 2: Description about the session (can be left blank)

Callout 3: Start determines the session start and when students can join the session. (Tip Start the session 15-30minutes early to ensure all users are connected for the start)

Callout 4: Duration sets how long the session will be.

Callout 5: To allow non UCL users to join (Tip: can be used if students cannot login to

Callout 6: Sets what guest join as in the session, Participant is usually the preferred option.

Interface – Find your way around

The Interface is user friendly with three main areas the media space, session menu and collaborate panel. For a full overview of the interface and navigation, please see the guide from Blackboard: https://help.blackboard.com/Collaborate/Ultra/Moderator/Get_Started/Navigation

Below is the guide for what each icon refers to in Ultra
https://help.blackboard.com/Collaborate/Ultra/Moderator/Get_Started/Use_The_Tools

Caution

Preferred Browser: Google Chrome and Firefox are the advised browser to use to get the most from Ultra.

More information please see: https://help.blackboard.com/Collaborate/Ultra/Moderator/Get_Started/Browser_Support

Examples and case studies

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Questions & Answers

Is Ultra accessible to students with specific learning difficulties?

Ultra offers an accessible platform.

It offers screen reader access, keyboard navigation, playback shortcut and navigating the panels.

<https://help.blackboard.com/Collaborate/Ultra/Moderator/Accessibility>

NB: For the best Blackboard Collaborate Ultra experience with your screen reader use Firefox® and Jaws on a Windows® system. On a Mac® use Safari® and VoiceOver.

How can I allow guests without a UCL login?

In the Ultra settings, enabled 'Allow Collaborate guest access', and set the default role for your guests (usually Participant).

Then when you click the link to your session, underneath the Join button you'll see a link. Share this link with your guests.

How many simultaneous users can Ultra cope with?

250 simultaneous users.

Further information

You may also want to see:

- [Web conferencing \(virtual classrooms\)](#)
- [Tips for using web conferencing](#) - (Blackboard Collaborate wiki space: <https://wiki.ucl.ac.uk/display/BBCollabSupport/Home>)
- [Support for students](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Portal advice](#)
- [Digital Education Web pages](#)