Getting Started in Moodle (Student Guide)

Are you ready to get started with Moodle?

This tutorial will help you to locate Moodle easily via Brookes webpages and give you some highlights.

You can start these tutorials anywhere and stop and restart anytime.

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Why do I need Moodle?

Moodle is the Brookes' Virtual Learning Environment, or VLE, and you will use Moodle regularly to access course resources and submit assignments.

For your modules, you will use Moodle to access your reading list and module handbook and to complete your assessments.

You may also be asked to participate in discussion forums or take part in interactive activities depending on your course and module.

Your instructor will describe your module's Moodle course in detail during the first few weeks of each term.

While the following tutorials are meant to introduce you to your Moodle, there is a lot of diversity in course content and layouts.

You should contact your instructor if you have any questions.

Where is Moodle?

Moodle is accessed via the main Brookes student page or you can access Moodle directly via http://moodle.brookes.ac.uk/.

First, go to brookes.ac.uk and click on 'Students' in the top right corner of the screen.

The 'Quick links' tab on the student homepage has many useful links, including links to Student Central, the Library, and your Brookes GMail account.

The other tabs also contain important links, such as

to Wellbeing and Upgrade-who will help you if you need personal or study support-

and links to other resources, such as the UMP Handbook.

Bookmark this page so you have it for later.

Under 'QuickLinks', click the bold 'Moodle login' link.

On the Moodle login page, enter your Brookes student number and password.

Note: If you are a new student, do make sure you are registered and enrolled before trying to sign into Moodle.

Okay, I'm logged-in...now what?

This is your default Moodle Dashboard.

Your Moodle courses are displayed in the 'Course Overview' block.

You can navigate between courses using the Navigation block in the left column.

There are several other blocks in the right column, including links to your Academic Adviser, your calendar, Upgrade, and the Library.

The dashboard is a flexible resource that is customisable.

It will show you your current courses and will highlight any assignments that are due.

If your modules are not visible for the current term, then your instructor may not yet have made them available.

Note: You can also view short tutorials on how to make changes to your dashboard and your profile.

What will my Moodle course look like?

Select the Moodle course you would like to view by clicking on its title.

The layout of your Moodle course will depend on your faculty, programme, and module.

There is quite a lot of variety.

Yet, there are some standard features.

Moodle courses are generally displayed in 2 or 3 columns.

The main column (shown here in the centre) contains all course activities and resources.

Most blocks contain further course information or university-wide information and links.

In the right column, instructors may add blocks containing their contact details or a block with links to all course activities.

In the left column you will generally find the navigation block. You can use this block to switch between courses and to return to your dashboard.

Some faculties may have additional blocks in the left column that link to further resources, or these may be docked along the left edge of your screen.

How do I navigate my Moodle course?

Depending on the layout of your Moodle course, you'll have several options to get to your course materials.

First, your navigation block will have links to not only your dashboard and your other Moodle courses, but also to course sections.

Clicking on the section titles will bring up the course section in the main content column.

Second, in the top bar there are breadcrumbs to navigate back to the main course page. You should use of these breadcrumbs rather than use the back button on your browser.

There are three layouts that you may experience in your Moodle courses, which have different navigation options.

One course layout gives a list of all course sections displayed on one screen.

Sections may be divided by topic and theme or by weeks in the term and there is quite a variety in how these are displayed.

Some courses may have these topics or weeks 'collapsed.'

You must then click on the topic or week's header (its title) to 'open' the topic and view the content.

The content will either open on the same page, or on a new page.

If the content opens on a new page, then use the breadcrumbs to navigate back to the main course page.

A second popular course layout uses 'tabs'. Clicking on these tabs will open and reveal the tab's content.

A final course layout, is called the 'grid' format.

For courses in grid format, you will be presented with a selection of images that link to different content pages.

Clicking on the images will reveal the content page.

Often the most important sections, no matter the course layout, are the first two sections (or the first and last section).

One section (usually the first section) will include your course overview, course handbook, and reading list,

and the other section (either the second section or the last section) will include your main course assessments or dropboxes.

Note: This may not be the case in your course or module, so do check with your instructor.