

Your Blackboard Playground

A Blackboard Playground is a 'dummy course' that staff can use for experimenting with the tools available in Bb9, and for trying out different ways of structuring a course or presenting content. Students are never enrolled on a Playground. Staff can try things out in the Playground before adding them to a live course. Only one Playground is available for each member of staff, and must be activated in order to use it.

How to Activate Your Playground

<https://my.manchester.ac.uk/staffportlet/my-courses>

When the My Course list opens, click **Activate Playground** near the top of the page

The screenshot shows the Blackboard interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Manchester logo, a home icon, and a search bar. Below this is the 'My Courses' section, which includes a list of actions: 'Refresh List' and 'Activate Playground'. The 'Activate Playground' link is circled in red. Below the actions are tabs for 'Current (0)', 'Ended (43)', and 'Future (0)'. A table with columns 'Code', 'Title', and 'Semester' is visible. At the bottom, there are 'Quick Links' for 'Blackboard 9' and 'Past exam papers'.

A pop-up window will appear. Provide a title for your Playground in the title field and click **Activate**.

The pop-up window is titled 'Activate Playground' and has a close button (X). It contains the following text: 'Please provide a title for your PLAYGROUND.' Below this, the text 'PLAYGROUND-7953135' is displayed above an empty text input field. Further down, it says 'The Playground space will appear in your course list once it has been activated, this could take 24 hours.' At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Activate'.

A confirmation message should appear.

Once the activation process has completed (allow up to **24 hours** for this), a link to your Playground will appear in your course list.