Blackboard Catalyst Awards

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Overview of session

- Background to award

- An instructor's insight - Adam Ozanne
  - Overview of a winning course: what he feels made it successful [NB not a 'how to win'…!]

  - Benefits

  - Workload

- Plan for supporting you, 2014-15 and beyond

Blackboard Catalyst Awards

- "…honour those who push the boundaries of their educational programs and technology in order to deliver innovative and effective learning experiences"

- Categories:

  Exemplary Course Award; Staff Development Award; Student Impact Award; Innovation Award

- Based around the **Blackboard Exemplary Course Rubric**

www.blackboard.com/About.Bb/Catalyst.Awards.aspx

Why should I take part?

- International recognition for instructor/ programme/School/institution

- Reflection and development

  - Collaboration with an eLT on a development plan based upon Blackboard's Catalyst rubric

  - Opportunity for peer review and collaboration

  - External feedback and evaluation for all entries by a worldwide panel of educators

Dr Andrew Whitworth (lecturer in SEED) receiving award at BbWorld2012 from Blackboard president Ray Henderson

Submission process

1. **The Exemplary Course rubric**

   Instructors self-evaluate their unit against a rubric in four areas: **Course Design**, **Interaction and Collaboration**, **Assessment**, **Learner Support**

   Weighting for each area:

   Exemplary, Accomplished, Promising, Incomplete, Not evident

2. **Nomination form**

   Online form that provides rationale and evidence to support self-evaluation

3. **Copy of the unit** *(without student content)* **available for external review**

   Anonymised screenshots that support case for student interaction - the eLearning team help with this

www.blackboard.com/About-Bb/Catalyst-Awards/Exemplary-Course-Program.aspx

Learner Support (page 1 of 2)

Learner Support addresses the support resources made a
be accessible within or external to the course environ
student services.

Sub-Category (weight)	Exemplary 5-6	Accompl 3-4
Orientation to Course and LMS (x.5)	• Clearly labeled tutorial materials that explain how and to navigate the LMS and the specific course are included • Tutorials are found easily (few clicks) whether internal or external to the course, with easy return to other areas of the course • Tutorial materials support multiple learning modalities: audio, visual, and text based	• Clearly materi how t and t are l • Tut ea th c
Supportive Software (Plug-ins)	• Clear explanations of optional and/or required software including any ad ditional costs are provide	• Clear explanations of optional and/or required software including any ad ditional costs are provide

Catalyst reviewer quotes

Blackboard as hub

❝ Exemplary use of Blackboard allows to reduce the labor-intensity of learning. Lectures are recorded and posted for future reference.

❝ The reviewer was impressed by the diversity of learner-supporting materials collected for this course. Impressive work!

❝ The number of engaging opportunities provided to students is exemplary.

Feedback mechanisms

❝ Having the students exposed to past submissions, including professor annotations, can really ease anxiety in learners who fear the unknown.

❝ Exposes students to instructor grading methodology before submitting exercises, as well as showcasing common stumbling blocks students may experience.

❝ Being able to observe past interactions can help guide current student success.

Presentation - Adam Ozanne

ECON10061 Introductory Mathematics Blackboard course

Applicant's perspective

- Why ECON10061 Blackboard space works

    - Blackboard acts as "hub" of multiple activities

    - Anonymised sample feedback

- Workload involved in preparing submission

- Benefits

How can the eLearning team help?

- One-to-one eLT consultation about your course

- Provide a peer review platform

- Support for development areas if needed

- Help with paper application

- Technical copying of the course for review

- Dissemination of successful courses

Timeline for 2015 production

- A web page of resources *(in production)*

- **Feb 2015** Anticipated submission deadline

  - Entrants for 2015 to get in touch ASAP *(duplicating course/Bb MOOC resources);* email elearning@manchester.ac.uk

  - Take a look at www.blackboard.com/About-Bb/Catalyst-Awards.aspx

  - Follow **Teaching & Learning News** for information on web page launch

- No rush - may want to see this as a longer-term objective; as part of a wider course review process

- But reviewer feedback makes it worth a punt

  - Developmental benefits

  - Inform future success

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