Blogs

In MySCU, only those with access to the Learning Site can view and author blogs. The owner of the blog creates multiple entries over a period of time, and teaching staff and other students type comments. The Site or a group can also own a blog. In the group area, all members of a group can create entries for the same blog, building upon one another. Non-members can read and comment on a group blog, but cannot make entries if not a member of the group.

You can create assessable blogs or use them solely for communication. In either instance, a student can make multiple entries.

Only teaching staff can create blogs.

Creating a blog

In order to create a blog, the Blog tool must be accessed. This can be done by either selecting Tools in the site menu, then selecting Blogs, or by selecting Site Tools in the Control Panel, then selecting Blogs. This will open the Blogs page which displays all blogs in the Learning Site, their type, their last date of modification and how many entries have been made. Blogs can also be made unavailable or deleted on this screen.
To create a new blog, the Create Blog button is selected. This opens the Create Blog page where the blog is initially configured. The configurations available include:

- **Blog Information**: Where the name of the blog and its instructions are entered. Instructions can include text, images, links, multimedia, mashups, and/or attachments.
- **Blog Availability**: Whether the blog is available to students.
- **Blog Date and Time Restrictions**: Whether the blog is only available for a specific period.
- **Blog Participation**: Which type of blog – individual or site (group blogs are created in the Users and Groups area of the Control Panel). You can also allow anonymous comments here.
- **Blog Settings**: You can control whether users can edit or delete entries or delete comments here.
- **Grade Settings**: Whether the blog activity is assessable, and what its grading settings are.

When you have set the blog settings appropriately, click on Submit and the new blog will appear on the Blogs page.

You can delete a blog, or edit its settings after it has been created by selecting the downwards arrow icon next to the blog name and selecting Delete or Edit.
Viewing blogs

When a blog is selected, its page opens, showing the blog name, instructions, all entries and a link to any comments made for each entry. There are also buttons for creating blog entries (if allowed) and commenting on entries. There is also a blog index where you can quickly jump to entries that are further down the blog. If the blog is assessable, then teaching staff will have access to an area for grading, providing feedback and adding notes. This information is stored in the Grade Centre. Entries can be edited and deleted or marked as new by selecting the downward arrow next to the title of the entry and selecting the appropriate option.
Further information

Blogs – from Blackboard Help.

How to Create a Blog – Blackboard video on YouTube: [Watch Video]

Creating and editing a Blog Entry – Blackboard video on YouTube: [Watch Video]