Blackboard Mobile Learn

What is the Blackboard App?

You can access Blackboard on your mobile device by downloading a free app called 'Blackboard Mobile Learn'.

The mobile app is designed to extend access to your learning and complement your use of Blackboard on a desktop computer or laptop.

You can use the app to view online content in your Blackboard courses.

For example you can

- Access your learning materials on the go from your smart phone or tablet.
- Keep up to date with announcements and information.
- Set up the app to send notifications on your device when something new is added.
- Personalise how your list of courses appears on your device.
- Read and write to blogs and discussion boards.

How do I get the App?

The app is available for Android and Apple smartphones and tablets.

To download and log in to the App:

1. Search for “Blackboard Mobile Learn” in your device’s App Store:

   Android Play Store
2. Click to install the app.

3. When opening the app for the first time, tap on **Search for your School**, type in 'Reading' and select **University of Reading** from the results.

4. Log in using your University of Reading username and password.

**Using the App**

**Viewing Courses and Organisations**

In the App, you’ll see a list all of your courses and organisations, listed by title. You may need to scroll down the screen to see all of your courses. Just tap on a title to open that course.

**Course Content**

Inside the course you’ll see folders which replicate the menu structure you see when logging onto Blackboard on a laptop or computer - for example Module Information, Assignments, Discussions.

Tap on a title to enter that area and view content. Where there are attached files (e.g. PDFs) you can tap on the icon to open it (or save it to your device).

You can read and post to Blogs and Discussion Boards, if these are being used on your course.
**Blogs (Blackboard Blogs only)**

In a blog you’ll see the entries listed in date order, with the most recent first.

- Swipe to scroll down the list of blog entries.
- Tap on the + Add button to write a blog entry.
- Tap on a blog entry to read it in full and to see the Comment button which will allow you to reply to the post, (if your tutor has enabled commenting.)
Discussion Board

In a Discussion board you will see discussion Threads, and within these are the posts which make up the discussion.

- Tap on the title of a Thread to enter the discussion.
- Tap on the **Reply** button to write a post. Use the Reply button at the top of the screen to post in response to the initial thread post. Or click on **Reply** next to an individual post to make a direct response to that post.
Settings

Click Settings from the Menu screen to

- Choose your Notifications options.
- Set up a link to your Dropbox account.
- Set your Privacy options – choose whether the app should remember your login details, or to logout fully.

Set up Notifications.

You can set the app to show you notifications on activity in Blackboard on your mobile device, even when the app is not open. In Settings > Notifications, select from the options to receive notifications on your device if:

- An announcement is made.
- New content is added.
- You are added to a new module.
- An online test has been made available.
- Work has been graded online.
  (Important: This feature is only useful where courses use the My Grades tool.)

Customise your Menu

You can set up and organise your course menu in different ways.

Tap the Edit icon to make changes.
Tap the Tick icon ✔ to accept any changes you make.

Re-order the course menu

Use the reorder icon (looks like 3 lines) to change the order the areas are listed in.

Drag and drop the course titles into different positions - for example, place your most recent modules at the top of the list.
**Hide courses**

You can hide any courses you don’t need to see on your mobile device. Tap the Eye icon to close it, and remove that course from your menu.

The course can be added back to your list by going back into Edit and tapping the closed eye icon to re-open it.

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**Edit course titles**

You can rename the title of a course to something more mobile-friendly, which you can easily spot and remember. Tap on the Cross icon beside the title of a course to delete the current title and then type in your own.

*Caution:* Change the names of courses with care. Changes made in the app only change the course title on your mobile device, and will not affect what displays when you log into Blackboard through a browser.
**Colour code your courses**

Tap the Colour Picker icon to change the colour of a title in your list.

For example: You could make courses you’re studying this year all the same colour and choose a different contrasting colour for the other courses you studied last year.

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**Favourite content**

Get easy access to content you use frequently. Tap the Favorite star icon above an item of content to make a link to it appear at the top of the main menu for that course.

For example, create a Favorite link to an entire folder of content e.g. ‘Lecture notes’ or a specific item e.g. Week 4 seminar notes’.

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**Further Help**

Get answers to your questions about Mobile Learn at [http://help.blackboardmobile.com](http://help.blackboardmobile.com)

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