

# What is different? Sulis vs Brightspace

Latest update: 13/09/2023 17:10:00<sup>1</sup>

This document maps the functionality differences between both VLEs, to provide teaching staff with relevant recommendations and further support. It complements the existing article mapping tool functionality [Sulis to Brightspace tools | University of Limerick](#).

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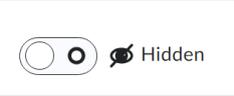
<sup>1</sup> For updates to this document, please contact [angelica.risquez@ul.ie](mailto:angelica.risquez@ul.ie)

## Configuration and site administration

### Navigation

	Sulis	Brightspace	Recommendation
Tool configuration	List of tools appear in the left menu and are visible to students.	There is a module navbar where you can quickly access tools and admin features. These are organised into top-level categories.	You should turn off any features and tools you are not using to avoid confusing your students.
Structure	Lessons tool in Sulis allowed for multiple levels	Only three levels: Units, Lessons and Folders. HTML pages told the content information	Storyboard your module design using an external tool (e.g. OneNote) or in paper before you set up the structure of your module. Modify the mastercourse provided to suit your module design.

### Site visibility

	Sulis	Brightspace	Recommendation
Publish site	Warning in Homepage for unpublished sites, 'Publish Now' button available	No warning in place.	Instructor needs to publish from Admin>Course Admin>Course Offering Information>tick 'Course is active'
Content visibility	All content created was automatically visible to students unless the instructor change the viewing dates or unpublished the site altogether.	Content created in automatically hidden from students, the instructor needs to make it visible (as well as publishing the site). From Dec 2023 however, content will be visible by default.	Remember to make your content, assignments, discussions etc visible to students using the button available in each content Unit, Folder and Page: 

### Notifications

	Sulis	Brightspace	Recommendation
Email notifications	Instructor can 'bypass' student preferences for notifications and push an email to students from Announcements tool	Students have all notifications activated by default, but they can configure this. The instructor cannot push a notification by email if the student has opted out from notifications.	Remind students to keep on notifications for announcements, but do not rely on Announcements tool to distribute crucial information, support this with email distribution
Mobile notifications	No mobile solution	Pulse App adds a second layer of course notifications	

## Adding participants

	Sulis	Brightspace	Recommendation
Adding external participants	Instructors were able to create accounts for external participants from the VLE	Instructors can still add existing UL users (staff or students) through the Brightspace interface. However, they cannot create new accounts using the Brightspace interface and they need to use a form on Topdesk to complete this action. The app contains data validation to eliminate the risks of duplicate account creation.	Full instructions available in <a href="#">Enrolling students and other users in modules   University of Limerick</a>

## Delivery

### Content

	Sulis	Brightspace	Recommendation
Providing access to resources (notes, presentations, etc)	This was done in the Lessons and/or Resources tool	Content is the main area in your module where you will include links to resources stored in the 'back end' from Manage Files (which is not visible to students)	Upload your materials first to Manage Files, then link to them from Content so they are visible to your students.
Sharing files with version control	Dropbox tool	Lockers and group lockers	See <a href="#">Lockers</a> article

## Assessment and feedback

### Assignments tool

	Sulis	Brightspace	Recommendation
Availability	Options are Open Date, Due Date and Accept Until (for late submissions)	Options are Start Date, Due Date (late submissions will be flagged) and End Date (closes access to assignment submission).	If you want to give partial credit for late work, do not set an end date.
Peer assessment	Possibility for peer assessment within Assignments tool	Not available. An integration with <a href="#">PeerScholar</a> is scheduled for SEM 2 2023/4.	In the meantime, you can manually create review groups and manage peer review in the Discussion forum, or ask for activation of Turnitin PeerMark (limited functionality)

## Quizzes

	<b>Sulis</b>	<b>Brightspace</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Organising questions	This was done in Question pools, associated to the instructor account so they are accessible across different modules	The question library is the area of the quiz tool where you can organise your questions. The library is essentially a series of 'folders' called 'sections', and are useful for grouping questions by topic, week, or type. Question libraries are stored in the module and are not automatically available to other modules, but can be copied or imported between modules by an instructor who has access to both modules.	Brightspace recommend that all new questions are added in the question library first, this will help keep track of the questions and allow you to import questions into quizzes or to other modules more easily.
Randomised tests	Randomised tests were created by adding a part to a Quiz and editing its settings to draw questions from a Question Pool.	Question Pools now are a feature of a quiz where you can draw questions from one or more question libraries allowing instructors to create randomised questions in quizzes, and define the number of questions drawn from one or more question libraries.	Please become familiar with recorded webinars and documentation on the Quizzes tool <a href="#">Quizzes - Instructor   University of Limerick (ul.ie)</a>

## Other grading feedback options

	<b>Sulis</b>	<b>Brightspace</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Multiple formats of feedback	Feedback provided was largely limited to written test and file upload, with no native multimedia functionality	Native feedback functionality includes in document feedback, audio and video (with automatic captioning)	Use these new options to maximise multiple means of engagement from a UDL perspective.
Managing the grading and feedback workflow	Instructor needed to access each site they owned to grade and provide feedback in each tool separately	Quick Eval provides a single dashboard to find and prioritize learner submissions across Quizzes, Assignments and Discussions in all the sites you own as an instructor.	See for more information <a href="#">Quick Eval   University of Limerick (ul.ie)</a>
Using Excel to provide feedback	PostEm tool in Sulis was used to upload feedback and grades using Excel and provide this information to the students	This now can be done in the Grades tool, where students can see all their grades and feedback (as well as the Class Progress tool)	Follow instructions in <a href="#">Grades - Instructor   University of Limerick (ul.ie)</a>

Using Turnitin Feedback Studio	While it was possible to provide qualitative feedback using this tool, the integration in Sulis was poor and unreliable	The Turnitin integration in Brightspace is tighter allowing to use Turnitin Feedback Studio for qualitative feedback (through Feedback pools) and grades can be pushed back to Brightspace.	See <a href="#">Turnitin   University of Limerick (ul.ie)</a> for more information
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## Learning analytics

	Sulis	Brightspace	Recommendation
Class Progress	No option to see engagement and grading statistics in a single dashboard.	The Class Progress tool tracks your learners' overall progress as a course and individually, including students' grades, access of content topics, participation in discussions, assignment submissions, quiz submissions, checklist completion, survey responses, login history, and system access. Instructors see information for the whole class, while the students only see their personal information.	See <a href="#">Class Progress   University of Limerick (ul.ie)</a>
Course Overview and class engagement	No option to see engagement and grading statistics in a single dashboard.	The Course Overview widget displays high-level aggregate information about the course and links to course-specific Brightspace Insights reports, for example, weekly course access or quiz submissions. In addition, the widget includes links to the Class Engagement tool, and Course Access and Tool Access reports.	Learn more <a href="#">Course Overview Widget - Brightspace (d2l.com)</a>
Intelligent Agents	No option to automatically contact students according to their engagement	Intelligent Agents (IAs) automatically interact with learner based criteria (login activity, course activity, release conditions) to send an email alert to both you and the learner.	Learn more <a href="#">Intelligent Agents - Instructor   University of Limerick (ul.ie)</a>