

Brightspace Monthly Newsletter



Welcome

Dear all,

As we are approaching the end of the semester, we highlight some information and recommendations that may be useful to enhance assessment processes.

[PEERSCHOLAR \(PEER REVIEW\) NOW OPENLY AVAILABLE](#)

[RUBRICS SHARING HUB APPEAL](#)

[REMINDER: IMPORTED TURNITIN ASSIGNMENTS](#)

[BEST PRACTICE AND FAQS FOR USING THE GRADES TOOL](#)

[SUPPORT](#)

PeerScholar (peer review) now openly available



The VLE Management Board made the decision to enable [PeerScholar](#), our tool for peer review, in all module sites by default. PeerScholar works in integration with BrightSpace and facilitates multiple peer assessment workflows including classic peer and self-assessment activities, teamwork and group work activities, team member evaluations, and case study activities.

Students can submit and peer assess multimodal resources: text, videos, audio, computer code, documents, and LaTeX content, annotations and inline comments (including video timeline annotation). It also allows teachers granular control over grading, access to validated rubrics, or creating your own.

To learn more, comprehensive training and documentation for the use of the tool is available in our Knowledge Base: [PeerScholar | University of Limerick](#).

Also, don't miss the upcoming *Show and TEL* session 'Leading peer review and assessment with PeerScholar' on **January 21st (Tuesday) 11-12pm**. [Join the meeting here](#)

SHOW AND TEL - DIGITAL EDUCATION FORUM

★★★★★

LEADING PEER REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT WITH PEERSCHOLAR

JANUARY 21ST 11-12PM

David Tanner
School of Engineering, SEN

Raymond Lynch
School of Education, EHS

Valeria Nico
School of Engineering, EHS

Michael Wride & Angelica Risquez
Centre for Transformative Learning

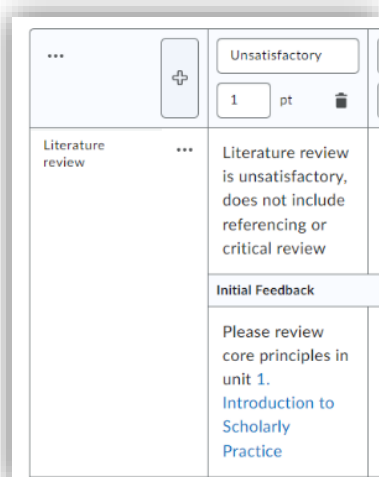
JOIN HERE

WATCH OUR RECORDED SHOW AND TEL SERIES IN WWW.UL.IE/DEF/BLOG OR [CLICK HERE](#)

Rubrics Sharing Hub appeal

We are expanding the [Rubrics Sharing Hub](#). If you are using Brightspace rubrics to support grading and feedback, and you are willing to share them so they can be reused by others, please get in touch with [Sinead Spain](#).

If you are not yet using Rubrics in Brightspace, we invite you to incorporate them into your assessment. Rubrics help to clarify assignment expectations, ensure consistent and transparent grading, provide specific feedback in efficient ways to large classes, and offer data for program improvement. Overall, rubrics support learning and fair evaluation, while it can help you to grade more effectively and efficiently. For example, using the Rubrics tool in Brightspace you can offer initial feedback to students, including links to other elements within your module **<image>**. To learn more, you may want to [watch this short webinar](#) in the [Rubrics](#) section of the Brightspace Knowledge Base. You can also try out grading with Rubrics in the Rubrics Sharing Hub ([Click here to request access](#)).

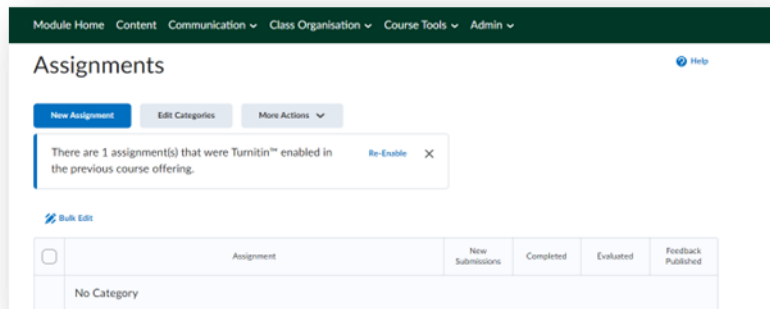


Acknowledgement:

The Rubrics Sharing Hub is created and kindly maintained by [Sinead Spain](#), Learning Technologist, SEN.

Reminder: Imported Turnitin Assignments

When you import assignments with Turnitin enabled from another module, you'll need to manually re-enable Turnitin for the assignments. After the content is imported, you'll see a notification in the Assignments tool area prompting you to re-enable Turnitin. If you don't re-enable, Turnitin will not work for submissions, and it cannot be applied retroactively.



Best practice and FAQs for using the Grades tool

The Grades tool is a powerful, but complex tool requiring some learning curve. When using this tool, we recommend you the following:

- Not to use the Grades tool in BS to enter examination grades
- Make it clear to your students that coursework grades in the VLE are different from module grades, which are provisional in nature
- Keep it simple and consistent: grade everything out of 100 in Assignments, Rubrics, Discussions or Quizzes, then reweight in the Grades tool.
- Use Grade Scheme over Numeric grade item types (not over Letter Grades 'Select box' item type) to avoid grade distortion. Learn more in this [video](#).

Below, we have curated some FAQs/tips that may come handy:

Why did my students get a grade notification when I published my grades in the Assignments tool?

If you have linked a Brightspace Assignment to the Grades tool and wish to 'Publish' grades in the Assignment tool so that they populate the Grades tool, it's important to make sure the grade item in the Grades tool is hidden first. Otherwise Brightspace will generate a notification to students containing the published grade.

I would like to release by assignment feedback and grades separately, how can I do this?

The easiest way to do this is to use the Assignments tool to provide feedback and enter the grades manually in the Grades tool (keep the item hidden until you are ready to release grade). If you are using a Rubric to calculate the grade within Assignments, it can be hidden from students, so they don't see the score.

I have a large class, and I would like to provide feedback using an Excel document, how can I do this?

First, In Manage Grades, set up the grade item. Then, export the gradebook into Excel CVS, add your grades/feedback and save locally. Finally, import into the Grades tool. To learn more, [watch this video](#).

To learn more about the Grades tool, visit [Grades - Instructor | University of Limerick](#) where you can access a comprehensive webinar on this tool.

Support

- Those starting with Brightspace can visit [Brightspace Training](#) for recorded introduction videos and complete [Introduction to Brightspace for Instructors \(Brightspace 101\)](#), a self-paced course that will guide you through all you need to know to get started, and receive notifications from just in time announcements with user tips and technical updates.
- The [Staff Brightspace Knowledge Base](#) comprises over 500 'how to' articles and FAQs, and has a [dedicated section for students](#).
- [ITD TopDesk](#) is available for Brightspace queries of a technical nature, while Faculty Learning Technologists are providing extensive support from a pedagogical perspective. Also, live training sessions can be organised on demand for groups and departments across UL from the [Centre for Transformative Learning](#).