Accessibility statement for Blackboard VLE

This statement is for the Blackboard virtual learning environment accessed from http://eat.tees.ac.uk.

This system consists of the commercial Blackboard platform, third-party plugins and module content. This website is run by Teesside University.

==(statement re mobile compliance)==

The University will strive to provide accessible lecture content, including the provision of appropriate alternative formats for students who have a Student Support Plan in place.

We want as many people as possible to be able to use this website.

- Within the native Blackboard user interface you will be able to:
- Change colours, contrast levels and fonts.
- Zoom in up to 200% without the text spilling off the screen except where content has been created by a user in such a way to not make this possible (for example within a non-responsive table).
- Navigate the website using just a keyboard.
- Navigate the website using speech recognition software.
- Listen to most of the website using a screen reader.

AbilityNet has advice on making your device easier to use if you have a disability.

How accessible this website is

Blackboard is a commercial product, designed and developed in accordance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA as well as the US Section 508 standards.
The following statement is provided to support you in using the site.

The following guides provide information on the accessibility features of Blackboard and third-party plugins:
- Understanding the structure and tag use of Blackboard pages
- Using ARIA based landmarks in Blackboard
- Keyboard navigation in Blackboard
- Using Screen readers with Blackboard
- Using Quick Links in Blackboard to navigate the current page
- Using Blackboard with a screen reader
- Accessibility features of Blackboard Collaborate for participants
- Accessing a text-only Similarity Report within Turnitin (Check Your Work For Plagiarism)
- Using the ReView (lecture recordings) video player

Feedback and Contact Information

If you are experiencing issues accessing content within a module please contact your module leader in the first instance.

The open Blackboard Ally File Transformer Service can convert PDF, DOC, DOCX, PPT, PPTX, HTML files into the following formats; OCRed PDF, Tagged PDF, MP3 Audio, HTML, Electronic Braille and ePub (iPad e-book format).

If you need information on the VLE help pages in a different format, contact via email: elearning@tees.ac.uk.

The University will strive to provide accessible lecture content, including the provision of appropriate alternative formats such as transcripts for students who have a Student Support Plan in place. If you are a student with existing arrangements or reasonable adjustments, please contact Disability Services https://libguides.tees.ac.uk/disability

Reporting accessibility problems with this website

We're always looking to improve the accessibility of this website. If you find any problems not listed on this page or think we're not meeting accessibility requirements, contact via email: elearning@tees.ac.uk

Enforcement procedure

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is responsible for enforcing the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 (the 'accessibility regulations'). If you're not happy with how we respond to your complaint, contact the Equality Advisory and Support Service (EASS). This website is fully compliant with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1 AA standard.

Contacting us by phone or visiting in person

We provide a text relay service for people who are D/deaf, hearing impaired or have a speech impediment.

Address:
Teesside University
Middlesbrough
Tees Valley
TS1 3BX
UK

Technical information about this website's accessibility

Teesside University is committed to making its website accessible, in accordance with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018.

Compliance Status

This website is fully compliant with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1 AA standard.

Non accessible content

Whilst Blackboard strives to adhere to the accepted guidelines and standards for accessibility and usability, it is not always possible to do so in all areas of the website. We note exceptions to meeting the accessibility standards and guidelines as follows:
*   Pre-recorded audio and video content published before 23 September 2020
*   Pre-recorded audio and video content is unlikely to be accompanied with a text alternative, captions, audio description or sign language interpretation.

This doesn't meet the following success criterion:
*   (non-text content)
*   1.2.1 (audio-only and video-only - prerecorded)
*   1.2.2 (captions – prerecorded)
*   1.2.3 (audio description or media alternative - prerecorded)
*   1.2.5 (audio description - prerecorded)
*   1.2.6 (sign language - prerecorded)
*   1.2.7 (extended audio description - prerecorded)
*   1.2.8 (media alternative - prerecorded)

We do not plan to create a text alternative, captions, audio description or sign language interpretation to prerecorded audio or video content that was published before 23 September 2020 but we do provide transcripts of recordings.

Panopto auto-captions

We use Panopto to create and share recorded learning materials and lectures. Panopto provides captions through automated speech recognition (ASR) a technology that is not 100% accurate. To mitigate the fact that captions will not be 100% accurate, we have provided guidance for staff on how to optimise the quality of captions in their recordings. Those with a Support Plan for transcripts will be able to request these through SLS via: https://libguides.tees.ac.uk/disability

Non-compliance with accessibility regulations

The Blackboard platform meets all of the minimum compliance regulations based on the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1 AA standard.

Disproportionate burden

Legacy content
Students retain access to their Blackboard modules from previous years for reference. Content provided on Blackboard sites for modules which are no longer being used for active teaching, such as those modules taught during previous academic years, are considered legacy content. It would be considered a disproportionate burden in person hours to bring this legacy content to full compliance. Anyone having issues accessing legacy content should seek advice, contact details are in the Feedback and Contact Information section.

Content that's not within the scope of the accessibility regulations

Live video
Live video streams do not have captions. This fails WCAG 2.1 success criterion 1.2.4 (captions - live).
We don't plan to create a text alternative, captions, audio description or sign language interpretation to pre-recorded audio or video content that was published before 23 September 2020 but we do provide transcripts of recordings.

How we tested this website

This website undergoes testing against the W3C WAI Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1 using the automated Siteimprove tool. This tool scans our web pages, and tests against all the criteria in the guidelines.

We also conduct manual testing against known accessibility issues which are not able to be found through automated testing.

This website was last tested on 18/09/2020. The test was carried out by Teesside University.

Our main website platform is available at: http://eat.tees.ac.uk

What we're doing to improve accessibility

We are committed to ensuring that staff have access to continuing professional development (CPD) for developing an inclusive learning experience. Throughout 2020-2021 Academic Registry are continuing to:

- Embed accessibility skills within our existing CPD offer to all academic staff.

- Provide guidance and training on the creation of accessible learning resources.

Preparation of this accessibility statement

This statement was prepared on 8th June 2021. It was last reviewed on 8th June 2021.

This website was last tested on 18/09/2020. The test was carried out Teesside University.

The test was carried out internally, using a quality assurance tool across all pages as well as a manual check of a substantial and carefully chosen sample of pages and content types. This website undergoes testing against the W3C WAI Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1 using the automated Siteimprove tool.
This tool scans our web pages, and tests against all the criteria in the guidelines.
Our main website platform is available at: http://eat.tees.ac.uk