Setting the Entry point to your module

To access Blackboard Learn go to <mark>*https://londonmet.blackboard.com*</mark>

Use your usual London Met Username & Password

In this guide the term 'Blackboard Learn' is used to describe the new VLE (although it will be called Weblearn when it is fully implemented). The word 'Weblearn' refers to the 'old' system (Vista 8) which the university has been using for the past few years.

The following information is aimed at users who would like to start a module from scratch. For information about migrating (copying/moving) content from Weblearn to Blackboard Learn, see the separate Quick Guide 'Migrating content from Weblearn to Blackboard Learn'.

Index of Contents

This Quick Guide will show you how to use images and text to improve the appearance of your Module Dashboard, and how to change the Entry Point to your Module so students do not see the Module Dashboard when they first access it.

NB: Current advice (February 2012) from ISS is to make sure the Module Dashboard is hidden so students do not see unused Widgets on their Module Dashboard. You can do this by setting a new Entry Point (page 5) or by changing the appearance of your Module Dashboard and hiding any widgets which are not useful. (See Quick Guide 1)

The Default entry point

Key Word: ENTRY POINT
The Entry Point is the page that students see when they first click on your module. If first impressions are important, you might want to think about how you can make this Entry point more visually appealing and engaging.

When a student first enters your module in Blackboard Learn, the default entry point is the *Module Dashboard*. If you leave this as it is, the first page they will see will be something like the one shown in Fig 1.
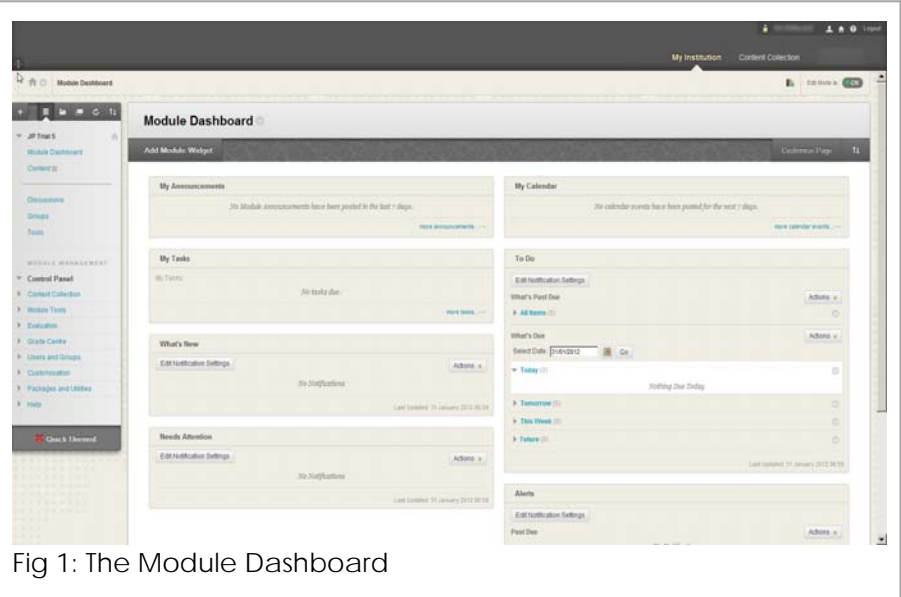

Fig 1: The Module Dashboard

This may not be the most effective way to generate interest in the online component of your module. (Remember, the student will already have seen the **Institution Dashboard** so might not want to see another Dashboard – see **Quick Guide 1**) The way you set up your module will depend on the subject area, learning objectives, your students, your own preferences – for example, a first year Graphic Design module will probably look very different to a Postgraduate module on Criminal Justice and Human Rights.

There are different ways to make your **Module Entry Point** more engaging:

1. Make changes to the **Module Dashboard** page itself. This could include changing the name of the page (perhaps to Module (name or code) Home or something similar), and adding images and text to make it look more attractive.

2. You can set a completely different page as the **Entry Point** to your module. If you want the first thing the student sees to be content (which was often the case in Weblearn), you can set a **Content Area** as the **Entry Point**.

Editing the Module Dashboard

A *Module Dashboard* can be made to look more appealing by editing the *Page Banner*.
This allows you to add Image and Text which will appear above any widgets (See **Quick Guide 1**) which you choose to display on the page.

To edit the *Page Banner*, click the arrow next to Module Dashboard (remember you'll need to be in *Edit Mode On* to do this). To change the name of the Module Dashboard, click *Edit*.
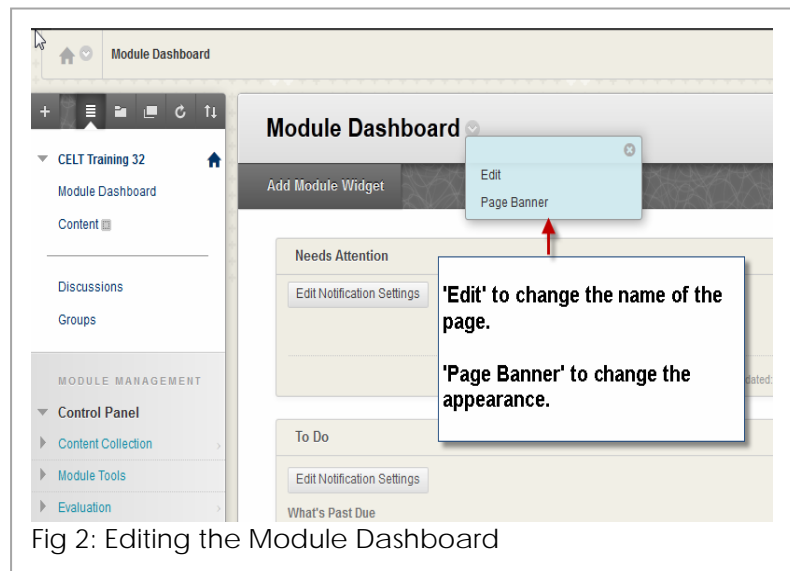

Fig 2: Editing the Module Dashboard

'Edit' to change the name of the page.

'Page Banner' to change the appearance.

In *Edit*, you can also determine the amount of control you want students to have over the Widgets displayed on this page.

Edit Widget Page: Module Dashboard

Widget Pages are specialized content pages that present content in discrete boxes. The widgets that appear on this page can be arranged in any order. *More Help*

✱ *Indicates a required field.*   Cancel   Submit

1. **Widget Page Information**

    ✱ Name   Example Module Home   ← Type in a new name to replace Module Dashboard

2. **Page Type**

    Permit Users to Personalise the Page   ☐   ← If you check this box, students are able to change the position of Widgets on their dashboard, but can't delete them

Fig 3: Changing the name of the Module Dashboard

To change the appearance of the *Module Dashboard*, click on *Page Banner*.

After clicking *Page Banner*, the text editor opens up. You can add an image, text and use lines to separate content.

NB Don't forget to click 'Submit' every time you make any changes to your module which you want to save.

Page Banner: Module Dashboard

Add a custom page banner for any Widget Page using the Text Editor. *More Help*

Cancel   Submit

1. **Page Banner Content**   Text size   Always click 'Submit' when you finish.

    Banner   Text Editor is: ON

    Heading 3 ▾ 3 ▾ Arial ▾ | B I U abc | x₂ x² | ≡ ≡ ≡ | ... | ... |

    Add Image   Add line   Preview

    Paste from Word (keeps formatting)

    Path: body » h3

    ○ Use default banner   ⊙ Use Custom Page Banner

Fig 4: Adding Images & Text to the Page Banner

Welcome to Academic English at London Metropolitan

Fig 5: Example Module Dashboard with image & text

In this example (see Fig 5), an image and text has been added to the *Page Banner* of the Module Dashboard.

The *Widgets* are still on the page, but lower down so the student would need to scroll to see them. The name of the *Module Dashboard* has been changed to Home, (the picture is simply to illustrate the idea).

Setting a New Entry Point

You can choose which page the students see when they first access your module from the link in *Institution Dashboard*. (NB This is known as the Entry Point, see earlier in document for more on this).

This function can be found in the *Style* section under *Customisation* in your *Control Panel*.

The Customisation section in the Control Panel

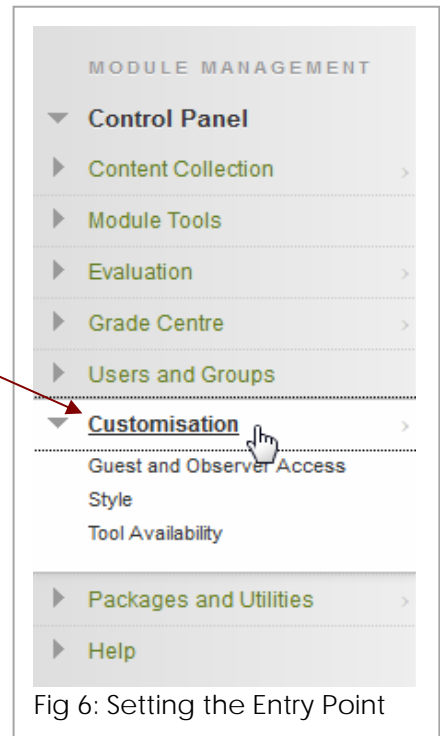Fig 6: Setting the Entry Point

The drop down menu arrow

Fig 7: Selecting your Module Entry Point

Click on *Style* (see Fig 6) and scroll down to number 5 – '*Select Module Entry Point*' (see Fig 7).

Click the drop down menu arrow to choose which page you would like to set as your Module Entry point.

You can set a Content Area, Blank Page, Learning Module or a particular Tool as your *Module Entry Point*. This allows for much greater flexibility than Weblearn as to how you present your module.

Things to think about:
Try to put yourself in a student's shoes when looking at your module – is it very clear how to navigate the module, where to find important information and resources, what the student is required to do?

More Information
For detailed information, the Blackboard 9.1 Learn Instructor Guide from Blackboard may be useful, but also talk to colleagues, the Blended Learning Coordinator and Blended Learning Advisors in your Faculty. You can also come to drop-in sessions run by CELT Elearning if you want more hands-on assistance.