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Introduction

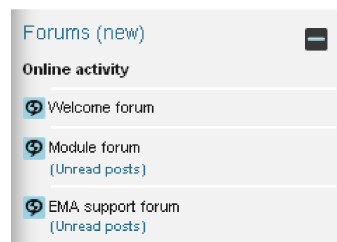
Forums enable you to communicate with your tutor and other students on your module by writing posts under named 'discussions'. Others can reply to your post, extending the discussion, or they can start a new discussion. Forums can be open or closed to a particular list of participants.



[A short video on forum basics](#)

[Download](#) [Show transcript](#)

Links to forums are denoted by the icon . They are listed under 'Forums' on the right-hand side of your module website home page. 'Forums (new)' indicates there are unread posts in one or more of the forums.



[An example of forum links on your module website](#)

There may also be links to your forums in the study planner.

Note on screen readers: Screen readers describe the link as 'forumNG' while the link in the address bar contains the word 'forumng'.

Types of forum

Who can access a forum depends on what sort of forum it is. It may be open to all students and tutors on a module, or only to members of a particular group such as a tutor group. Sometimes you can view, but not post to, the forums of other groups.

Here are some typical examples of forums:

- **Module-wide forum** A 'café' or help forum that is open throughout the module.
- **Module-wide or group forums in the study planner** May be open throughout the module or for particular weeks.
- **Activity forums** Usually for tutor group or small group work. May be linked to in the study planner or in the online learning materials.
- **Archive forums** Closed forums that you can view but no longer post to.
- **Read-only forums** Archive forums or activity forums that you can no longer post to. You can still view and search them.

Further information

Show readers
View subscribers
View posts by user
Usage
Request ad hoc forums

View as single page

Descriptions

Some items on this page include descriptions for visually-impaired students.

[Show description links](#)

 Help with this page

Website feedback

If you have any feedback concerning the OU Computing Guide, please [let us know](#).


Navigation


COMPUTING-GUIDE


Resources & forums


OU online learning systems

Learning online

 Accessibility

 Using your qualification website


 Using your module website

 Audio Recording Tool (ART)

 Calendar export

 Chat


 DataPlus


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 **Forums**

 Glossary

 iCMA (interactive Computer-Marked Assignments)


 Module blog

 Online rooms - Elluminate Live! version 10

 Online rooms - OU Live

 OpenStudio

 Questionnaire

 Resource bank activities

 Text editor

 Voice Recorder

 Wiki

General computing skills

- For guidance on using forums with assistive technology, see [Module website and online tool accessibility](#).
- For guidance on adding and editing content in forums, see [Text editor](#).
- When working in shared online spaces you must carefully consider the information that you are sharing with others. See [Conduct and content online](#).
- For information on accessing forums on a mobile device, see [Using a mobile device](#).
- For information about the text editor, see the [Text editor](#) subpage of the OU Computing Guide. Direct links to the documents are:
 - [Text editors: general information](#)
 - [Text editor \(Atto\)](#)
 - [Text editor \(TinyMCE\)](#)

Tip: hold Ctrl and click a link to open it in a new tab. ([Hide tip](#))

Next: [Quick start](#)

