

Blackboard – Community Sites Overview

Community sites are structured web sites set up in Blackboard. They are organised separately from the unit sites set up for online unit delivery that are widely used at ECU, but have exactly the same functionality. Anyone with a current HR contract at ECU can request and maintain two types of Blackboard community sites: Award Sites and Ad-Hoc sites.

Award Sites

Automatic population of a site based on award enrolment. An award community site can be useful if you want to communicate online with a cohort of students taking a particular course code or set of course codes. At the moment community sites have no connection to the units sites a student may be enrolled in as far as Blackboard is concerned. The award community site is intended for course wide communication and community-building including, for example, course relevant information, forums, a blog or posting jobs or events.

Ad-hoc Sites

Manual enrolment for sites for any other purpose. An Ad-hoc community site could be useful if you have a need to communicate online with a group of ECU students or staff.

Why create a Blackboard Community Site?

1. If you previously ran a site for testing or training then you may now need an ad-hoc community site.
2. You want to communicate with students enrolled in an award rather than on a unit by unit basis.
3. You run or are a member of a research group and want a place for online discussion or sharing of documents.
4. You run or are involved in a committee or working party and want a place for online discussion or sharing of documents.
5. You are organising a conference or project – you could post up the schedule or papers, display audio and video, or host discussion boards a blog or a wiki.
6. You organise a social or sporting group at ECU and want to communicate with members online.