
Using Blackboard Achievements for Skills Recognition

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Life Sciences / Library Academic and Digital Services

Overview

- What are Blackboard Achievements
- Use case: Department of Life Sciences Skills Passport
- Practical: set up achievements in your practice or live organisation
- Tips for implementation



Achievements

Summary

- Course level / Organisation level
 - Tied to activities, tasks, or goals
 - Allow students to see how their learning is scaffolded
 - Badging and gamification contexts
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- A large yellow triangle is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, pointing towards the top right.

Case Study: DLS Skills Passport

Development of the Skills Passport in DLS – Dr Ifat P Shah (Director of Learning & Teaching)

The DLS Skills Passport documents the skills that students acquire during Years 1 and 2

Skills Passport enables students to appreciate and collate their skills to facilitate writing their CV

Skills Passport assessed in Year 3 as part of the Research Project module BR36440 (CV)

Paper-based Skills Passport

Students download and print blank Skills Passport

Students bring paper document to each practical class or similar

Class leader observes the skill (1 or 2 per class)

Students reflect on skills and complete the document

Document signed by student and class leader

Paper document retained by students (risk of loss or destruction)

Module	Type of skill	Skill (basic / advanced)	Class leader identifies skill associated with the skill, sets up badge associated with the skill	Student signature	Staff initials
For biologists	Scientific writing	Finding and citing sources (basic)	Leader takes tablet into class; awards Badges when satisfactory skills are observed	P. Student	X Y Z
	Microscopy	Using an oil-immersion lens to increase resolution (advanced)	Students can see online which Badges they have gained	A. Student	P D Q
			If a tablet not practicable, class list can be printed; Badges can be updated on Blackboard later		
			System optimised for DLS		
			Introductory video for staff		
			No risk of loss of evidence of skills		

Online Skills Passport

Class leader sets up DLS Skills Passport in Gradebook, in advance

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Development of the Skills Passport in DLS – Dr Ifat P Shah (Director of Learning & Teaching)

in BR17120

4 Practical classes

4 Skills Badges available

878 Skills Badges awarded

Image	Name	Created on	Status	Recipients
	DLS Skills Passport: Ability to use a compound microscope	10/10/2025 15.36	Published	329
	...e handling of a	10/10/2025 15.43	Published	227
	...e Principle of	10/10/2025 15.51	Published	212
	...on of a simple	10/10/2025 16:31	Published	210

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Department of Life Sciences

Online Skills Passport

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Badge Details

* Description

Ability to use a compound microscope. You have been observed scoring asci.

Maximum 500 characters

Badge Image








Demonstration

Rollout

- Prepare students for the activity
- Demonstrate where they can get the achievements from
- Link to wider skills
- Helps to create achievements in manageable chunks
- Use as a discussion about skills students have gained from engaging with the activity

Future plans

- Law and Criminology
Assessed Seminar
Performance components



What are you going to do
next with Achievements?

Diolch / Further information

[Achievements](#)

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