# **Blackboard blogs**

#### Summary

A weblog, short blog, is a website that contains new and chronologically sorted articles in a periodic manner. The blog serves as an exchange of information, thoughts and experiences made and is in so far closely related to an internet forum. Blogs were originally mainly used as private online diaries. In the meantime, there are also many blogs managed by publishers, companies and organizations. In the academic sphere blogs are being used more and more as seminar and course support tools.

The Freie Universität Berlin provides on the one hand a central blog system that is operated with the software *WordPress*. Further information on the **FU blogs** can be found here.

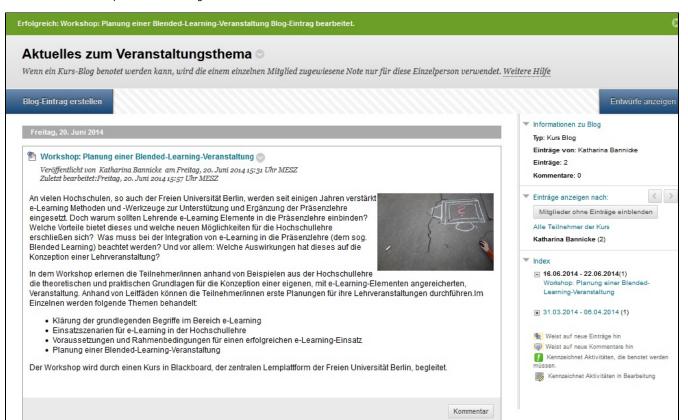
On the other hand there is the possibility of setting up blogs within the LMS Blackboard. Further information on **Blackboard blogs** can be found in this article.

#### Table of contents

- · Implementation forms
- · Practical examples at the Freie Universität
- Implementation tips
- Usage
- Data protection and terms of use
- Further information
- Support offered by CeDiS

## Implementation forms

Blackboard blogs are suited for the documentation of a group work process or the documentation of the developments to a certain topic if several
participants are supposed to draft texts or comment on these. In contrast to the central FU blogs thematic categories, keyword clouds or pages
cannot be set up in blackboard blogs.



#### At the start of the semester

- · Clarification of the seminar goals
- · Clarification of organizational questions

### Semester-accompanying

- · Documentation and presentation of intermediate results with discussion
- Presentation of work assignments with the possibility of clarifying questions
- Providing work material
- · Posting corrections/sample solutions
- Publication of student work
- Mutual feedback

### At the end of the semester

- · Summarized results presentation
- Final course feedback

### For the preparation of courses

- Posting scripts/slides before lectures and the clarification of questions
- · Undertaking research with a discourse on the results

### For the follow-up of courses

- Summary of the results of the face-to-face session with source supplements
- Continuing on with open discussions/questions

### Blogs managed by students

- Writing for a public audience, publication of one's own insights
- During the internship: Writing reports and exchanging experiences made
- Documentation of results
- Sharing relevant online sources
- · Practicing drafting academic texts (simulation of the process of "peer reviewing")
- Possibility of informal communication
- Managing a learning diary

# Practical examples at the Freie Universität

- Learning check in lectures with Blackboard tests
- Interactive online course: Learning theories
- Lernkontrolle in Vorlesungen mit Blackboard Tests
- Interaktiver Online-Kurs: Lerntheorien

## Implementation tips

• Usage suggestions for managing/moderating a blog (PDF)

## Usage

• All information for the setting up in Blackboard here: What are diaries and blogs? (FAQ wiki)

## Data protection and terms of use

- The posts in a blog of a Blackboard course are not anonymous.
- The general terms of use for the learning management system of the Freie Universität Berlin provide you with information on the terms of use, for the registration, on improper use, on the exclusion of use, on liability, on usage rights and on changes to the terms and conditions of use.
- If you have any legal questions on data protection, data safety, protection of intellectual property rights etc. that crop up during the design phase
  of a course supported by e-learning, the usage of existing material or the implementation of tools then please contact the Office of the General
  Counsel of the Freie Universität Berlin. Written information on these topics can be found here (Login with FU-Account required).

## Further information

- · Landing page: Blackboard Learning Management System
- An overview of the services for lecturers and researchers can be found here.

## Support offered by CeDiS

- Consulting services for the implementation of digital solutions in teaching: The Center for Digital Systems (CeDiS) has extensive experience of
  many years when it comes to the implementation of digital media and systems within the fields of teaching, learning and research. We offer a
  wide variety of consulting services on the implementation of these tools and systems within the entire academic scope and especially at Freie
  Universität Berlin
- Training courses and workshops: For lecturers at Freie Universität Berlin (professors, employees, tutors) as well as lecturers of other universities
  CeDiS offers training courses and workshops on the topic of teaching and learning with digital media. These course enable participants to
  implement online elements within their own sphere of teaching.
- The Executive Board of the Freie Universität supports e-learning initiatives: With the e-learning funding program financial resources are provided
  to lecturers that enrich and improve their courses quality-wise by implementing technological and media-related support. All of the academic staff
  teaching, the lecturers or even the institutions of the Freie Universität without the Charité-Universitätsmedizin can be supported within this
  program.