

Essential Student Skills: The Brightspace Pulse app – Student guide

Introduction

Brightspace Pulse is an app that can help you to stay informed about content in your units or modules. Pulse is not the same as Brightspace itself (though it will connect you to it), think of it as a notification centre and planning tool.



Video: [Watch an overview of Brightspace Pulse.](#)

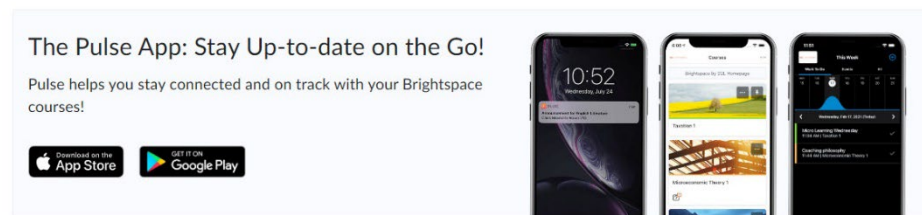
Downloading the app

The app is available for both [Android](#), and [iOS](#).

To download it follow the links above (to the Google Play store or Apple App Store).

Notifications

Control how you receive notifications about activity in your courses. You can receive a periodic summary of activity, or receive instant notifications as things happen.



To discover a bit more about it, visit the [Mobile Learning Experience page](#) or use the Brightspace Apps link via Help in the navbar (picture opposite).

Accessing Brightspace Apps from the Brightspace navbar

Setting up

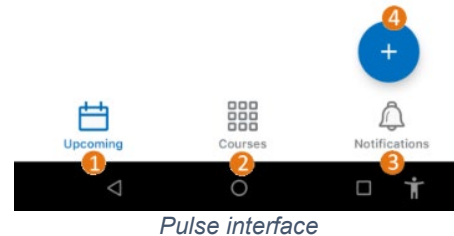
When you open Pulse for the first time you will have to find University of the Highlands and Islands (this may be listed when you turn on your location service, if not simply type in 'University of the Highlands and Islands'). Click on the university name and log in with your standard UHI username and password.

Note: Our tests have shown that the app works perfectly with iOS devices, while on occasion it freezes on Android. If this happens to you, close the app and reopen.

Essential Student Skills: The Brightspace Pulse app – Student guide

Navigation

Once you have logged in you will see at the bottom of the app screen that there are three main tabs: Upcoming, Courses and Notifications. There is also a plus symbol, where you can create To Do items or Events (picture opposite).



The following Brightspace page, gives full details of [how to navigate the interface](#) for both Android and iOS.

Upcoming tab

Clicking on any item in the **Work to Do** area of the Upcoming tab will bring up textual details relating to a particular activity (e.g. an assignment due on a particular date). At the bottom of the screen there is a hyperlink to 'Go to Activity'. Clicking on the link will open Brightspace on your device and take you directly into the particular unit or module the activity belongs to.

The **Events** column works the same way – one click and you can read further details, and at the bottom of the screen a link to 'View event' which will take you into Brightspace for mobile.

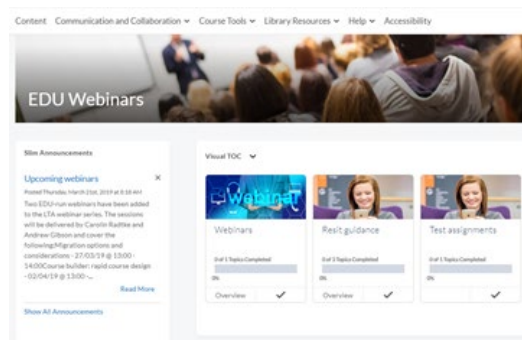
Note: In the majority of cases, when opening brightspace.uhi.ac.uk on a mobile device you will find it has been optimised for your screen. However, on the odd occasion you may have to zoom in to see an item clearly.

Courses tab

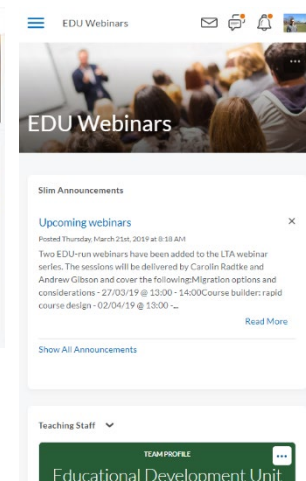
The Courses tab opens a vertical list of the units/modules you are enrolled on. Tap once to see list of the headings in the Table of Contents (e.g. Week 1, or Discussions, etc.) for that unit/module.

Tap again to go into any item (opens Brightspace for mobile).

Alternatively, when you are looking at the list of folders in the Table of Contents, at the foot of the screen is 'Course Homepage' – tapping on that link will open the homepage of your unit/mobile in Brightspace for mobile.

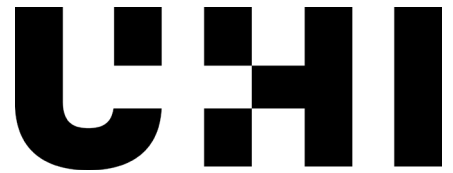


Unit/module homepage in fullscreen view



Unit/module homepage in mobile view

Note: On a large screen a unit/module homepage features a screen divided in parts (Figure 3), in mobile view everything is one vertical column.



Essential Student Skills: The Brightspace Pulse app – Student guide

In mobile view the screen is reduced to a single vertical column (beginning with Slim Announcements, the Teaching Staff, followed by Tasks, Office 365 then Visual TOC (Table of Contents) (shown above).

Everything works, just expect to do some scrolling before getting to your course materials.

Notifications tab

Content in the Notifications area is divided into Updates and Subscriptions. Updates refers to anything new or updated in terms of content (e.g. Announcements, a new piece of learning material); it also includes links to any feedback on assignments. As before, tapping on an item will give you a link to open it in Brightspace for mobile.

Subscriptions relates to discussion forums that you have subscribed to (i.e. set up to alert you to new posts etc.).

Plus/Add icon

The Plus/Add icon (shown as number 4 in the picture above) allows you to add notes ('Work to do' items) and timed items ('Events'). In each case the interface asks for a title, a particular course, date, time and details.

Guidance

There is a large amount of comprehensive and clear Pulse guidance on the D2L web site. The following list should cover any questions you might have:

There is a large amount of comprehensive and clear Pulse guidance on the D2L web site. The following list should cover any questions you might have:

- [Overview](#)
- [Pulse platform requirements](#)
- [Log in and out of Pulse](#)
- [Navigate in Pulse](#)
- [Add activities in Pulse](#)
- [View and edit activities in Pulse](#)
- [Mark an activity as complete in Pulse](#)
- [View courses and course content in Pulse](#)
- [View notifications in Pulse](#)
- [Read and reply to discussion threads in Pulse](#)
- [Troubleshooting in Pulse](#)