Student Guide to Learning Analytics at Canterbury Christ Church University

Introduction

This guide explains our approach to Learning Analytics at Canterbury Christ Church University.

At present, we are undertaking a pilot of Learning Analytics. As our use of Learning Analytics develops we will update this guide.

We intend to be transparent about all aspects of our use of Learning Analytics.

We want you to understand what data we collect, how we process it and what we do with the information

If you have any queries about how your tutors use your data for the purposes of Learning Analytics, you can talk about this with your personal academic tutor or your course director in the first instance. They can explain how it is used.

What is Learning Analytics?

Learning Analytics are the "digital footprints" left when you use Blackboard and other University systems. We combine these with data such as grades and past academic history. This provides additional information to you, your lecturers, tutors and support staff to support your learning.

Learning Analytics enables us to analyse a large amount of data about teaching and learning events. We do this through a Learning Analytics dashboard that is tailored to our university systems. It allows us to develop a measure of engagement for each student. We then compare it with course or group averages. Where results that differ from the average we might offer to put in place support for individual students.

We do not use Learning Analytics metrics for assessment purposes. They will not contribute to your coursework marks.

What use do we make of Learning Analytics?

We collect data about you as a student when you complete registration. We also collect information about your engagement with your studies. We use this information to review aspects of your course and manage our use of resources.

Using this data for Learning Analytics provides you, your lecturers, tutors and support staff with additional information. The purpose is to support your learning and ensure you reach your full academic potential. This is a new use of this information.

Using the information in this way can give you a better idea of how your learning is progressing. It can help us to understand how we can best support you. This is to enable you to meet your goals and achieve your full potential at the University.

A future use for Learning Analytics is to provide predictive indicators for achievement. We do this by comparing your patterns of activity and achievement with those of previous groups of students. While we will not use predictive indicators in the pilot, we aim to introduce these in future years.

We expect these indicators to help us identify more easily those needing additional support with their academic studies. It helps us to contact individuals to see how we can help.

How can students use of Learning Analytics?

Learning Analytics can help give you an indication of how your learning is progressing. This can be valuable information throughout your studies.

How do we present your Information?

Your engagement data is displayed via a student engagement dashboard that your personal tutor or course tutor may use during your meetings with them. Your 'attainment' i.e. your marks and grades are displayed in the dashboard. These marks and grades are provisional. They may change until confirmed by a Board of Examiners.

Learning Analytics can help you by giving your tutors information on your progress. Tutors may use this information to discuss your progress. They may contact you to check you feel you are on track. They may offer to arrange a meeting with you to review your progress. If any of the personal data is inaccurate, you will have the right to correct these inaccuracies.

How do members of staff use Learning Analytics?

Your tutors will be able to view data about your engagement, attainment and any predictions made. Tutors have access to a data dashboard. This contains data about your engagement and attainment. They can use this to provide a focus for conversations between the two of you.

The types of help include recommending additional support, referral to specific study skills programmes, and general advice about managing workloads. We will share more with you as we develop the package of interventions.

What personal information do we use?

We use the following data for Learning Analytics to support your learning.

- Background information

  - name,
  - University ID
  - personal contact details – email uni

- Details about
  - your course, your modules, and your tutors
  - your assessments, marks and grades obtained.
  - Blackboard use including logins, resources viewed, assessments submitted and graded, and session timeouts.
  - your attendance (physical onsite and digital online)
  - your library usage (physical and e-library)

Only those members of staff who check the accuracy and adequacy of the modelling or have a professional requirement to support you can view the analytics about you individually.

Where is my personal data stored?

Your data will be stored on servers located within the European Economic Area

What are the Legal Bases Used for Including Data in Learning Analytics?

Universities are designated as public authorities for the purposes of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018.

The University uses public task as the basis for processing Learning Analytics data. This is because Learning Analytics relates to the University's core learning and teaching functions and how we support student retention, progression and attainment.

There are aspects where we rely on consent. We will ask your consent to use the data for the purposes of providing support to you.

All data are used in compliance with the Data Protection legislation. It is carried out in accordance with the University's Data Protection Policy along with Student Privacy Notice.

Your personal information is safe and secure. It is subject to security procedures in compliance with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

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