

Magic with Moodle 3 - Layout and Images

Layout, navigation and Images

Examples from staff in Schools around the University

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Background

The aim is not only to make Moodle look interesting, but to:

- improve navigation for students,
- increase engagement
- provide alternative ways to present information
- improve the student experience of Moodle.

All Schools have templates which were created in consultation with staff in each School. These aim to:

- keep modules across a School consistent
- provide a better experience for the students when trying to find items such as assignments.
- make it easier for staff – it's a usable starting point
- be flexible to suit your needs – for example, you can add more sections (topics) – BUT bear in mind the principle of consistency.

The screenshot shows a Moodle course page for 'Archaeology Template 1314' at the University of Nottingham. The page is annotated with red boxes and text:

- Information for lecturers (hidden):** A red box highlights the 'Lecturers' section, which is currently empty.
- Placeholders as content suggestion (hidden until replaced - then unhide them):** A red box highlights the 'Information for students' section, which contains several placeholder links like 'Module timetable link' and 'Module description'.
- Students will find things in the same place (e.g., assignments):** A red box highlights the 'Assessments and Feedback' section, which contains a link 'Please submit your assignments here'.
- Section titles are there to be replaced as you need Likewise descriptions of content & no. of sections:** A red box highlights the 'Week 1' section, which contains a placeholder description 'A description of this week's topic and activities'.

What did staff do?

By adding the block **Module Navigation** Moodle shows a "table of contents" automatically picked up from the Section name.

NOTE In the current Moodle (from July 2015) a table of contents appears automatically in the NAVIGATION block in every module.

You can also add images, a Wordle¹ or a Prezi², even using images for navigation.

Welcome to Beginners Russian!

Seminar Registration

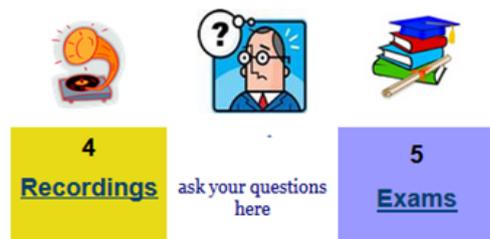
Russian Beginners Timetable

Please see all available classes for this module using the link above.

Each of you have to attend 6 hours of classes per week:

- a) 2 hr lecture (Monday 15.00-17.00, Portl C27)
- b) 1 oral class - (Thursday, Pope A25) .
- c) 3 workshops on three different days (1 hr x 3)-

Quick links.



 [Oral Exam List - Thursday 13.12.12 Trent C40.](#)

Teaching Team:

Svetlana Clark (module convener; lectures and oral classes)

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What did students think?

- Students overwhelmingly request clear navigation
 - They would prefer consistency across their modules.
 - They like important items easy to locate
 - Staff may need to provide ways to navigate when students are new to the module and want a lot of introductory information and help with navigation
- AND
- support for students after they have become familiar with the module and just need to get quickly to the important places

Tips and recommendations

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- Start simple
- Don't make the images too big or overdo it with too many
- Keep graphics discreet and useful to students – should fit with the overall University / Moodle design
- If students have to scroll every time they visit the page, they will get frustrated!
- Use the blocks available such as Module Navigation
- Keep any embedded items such as Prezi or video to a minimum
- Put just a few graphic items on the front page or it will take too long to load...

More information:

- [Presentation about this case study](#)

Moodle Help

- How to add an image to a Moodle label, page or other text area
- How to get images ready for Moodle

How to achieve this

- Creating a word cloud using tagxedo.com [blog post]

¹**Wordle** – a way to create visual word maps of a piece of text or important concepts (wordle.net or tagxedo.com)

²**Prezi** is an alternative to Powerpoint with unusual zooms and transitions