

8. Using Blogs for Internship Courses

The word 'blog' is a contraction of 'web log'. Blogs are a form of online journal used for journaling and communicating with a chosen audience – family, friends, colleagues etc. Blogs are usually organized as a chronological series of postings created by the author of the blog. Blogs usually are written by one person, although some blogs often allow for comments or responses by readers.

Laidlaw uses blogs in a number of courses as a way to allow students to reflect on what they are learning. Some blogs are designed to be read by other students in the course, while others are available only to the individual student, the course coordinator and possibly a mentor.

The internship courses use blogs for the reflective components of the course. This is a place where you can submit material that you have written and also comment and reflect on the ministry that you are involved in.

8.1. Course Main Screen

When you log into Moodle and go into a course, you should see a screen like that below. If your course has a blog then it can be seen at the top right of the course screen.

461.515 Introduction to Ministry

Ministry Internship (MI) courses are designed to equip men and women for effective leadership and ministry in the church and in the world. This MI course offers an introduction to ministry context, personal strengths and reflective practice through ministry internship experience, in conjunction with regular individual mentoring, strengthfinder coaching, assignments and integrative tutorials.

News forum
Introductions
Student questions and issues

Learning Guide

- 461.515 Introduction to Ministry Learning Guide
- Course Outline
- Course Assessment and Delivery Outline
- Blogging for Internship Assessments
- Assignment cover sheets
- Additional course resources

Textbooks

The book: *Start with Talent: Finish with Strength* (Washington: Gallup Press, 2009), is required for this course. It can be ordered from Canterbury Youth services. They will also arrange a personal coaching session with you, which is included in the cost of the book. Email office@ccys.org.nz to order your copy. Let them know that you are an intern studying with Laidlaw.

Electronic assignment submission

LATEST NEWS
(No news has been posted yet)

ACTIVITIES
Assignments
Feedback
Forums
Resources

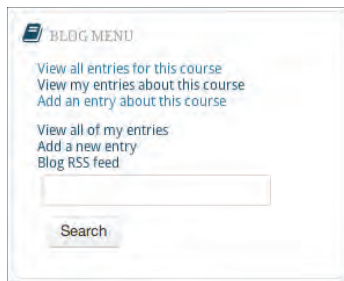
ADMINISTRATION
Course administration
Grades
My profile settings

BLOG MENU
View all entries for this course
View my entries about this course
Add an entry about this course
View all of my entries
Add a new entry
Blog RSS feed

Course Blog

There are a variety of options on the blog menu.

1. View all entries for this course. This will show all of the blog entries by all students in the course.
Note: If they are posted as private entries then you cannot see other students' blog posts.
2. View my entries for this course. This will show all of your blog entries for the course.
3. Add an entry for this course. This allows you to add a blog entry to this course only.
4. View all my entries. This will show all of your blog entries for all your courses.
5. Add an entry. This allows you to add a general blog entry.



8.2. Adding a General Blog Entry

To add a blog entry, just click on either “Add an entry for this course” or “Add an entry”. The process is the same for both, the only difference is the visibility of the blog posts.

When you add an entry the screen over page will appear.

1. Entry title. This is the main title that will appear in the list of blog entries. Try to create unique titles to ensure that you can easily find blog posts later.
2. Blog entry body. This is the content of the blog. You can type whatever you want here. Photos and web links can also be included. Please read the instructions for the course to determine the nature and content of the blog post. Contact the course coordinator if you do not know what you are to be writing about.
3. Attachment. This allows you to add an attachment if needed. Generally attachments are not needed as the content can be put into the blog entry body.
4. Publish to. This affects who can see the blog posting – see below for details.
5. Tags: Official tags. Tagging provides a way to categorize blog posts and helps finding blog posts. Some tags apply to all blogs.
6. Tags: Other tags. Other tags are ones that you want to use in your blogs.
7. Associations. This indicates where the blog can be seen – either in a course only, or throughout Moodle. In the example above, the blog entry is associated with a course.
8. Save changes. You must save changes to ensure that the blog entry is created. All changes will be lost if this is not clicked.

General

Entry title*

Blog entry body*

Attachment

Path: p

Maximum size for new files: 1GB, maximum attachments: 99

Files

You can drag and drop files here to add them.

Publish to ⓘ

Anyone on this site

Tags

Associations

Save changes

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8.3. Publishing Your Internship Assessments

The level 5 & 6 internship courses require students to create blog posts for all assessments that contain learning objectives and for all reflective practice work.

Sample Requirement:

For 461.515 Introduction to Ministry, blog posts are required as follows:

Assessment		Due	Blog Post Content
Call, Context & Covenant		25 March	Details on pg 8-16 of the course handbook.
Reflective Practice	Reflection One	8 April	Details on pg 18 of the course handbook.
	Reflection Two	6 May	
	Reflection Three	20 May	
	Reflection Four	3 June	
	Final Reflection	29 June	Details on pg 19 of the course handbook.

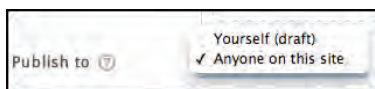
For each of these assessments we recommend that you prepare your work in Microsoft Word (or an equivalent word processor) then copy and paste it into a blog post prior to the due date.

When you are ready to publish your work:

- Go to the blog menu and choose “Add an entry about this course”
- Title your work with your name and the assessment title e.g., Joe Bloggs Call, Context & Covenant
- Copy your work into the box below
- Publish to “yourself (draft)”

You must create a separate blog post for each of the assessment tasks listed.

Who can see your work?



When you publish a post you can select who can see the post. If you select the “Yourself” option then your post can only be seen by you and the course coordinator, and your mentor. If you chose this option, then only the course coordinator (and mentor) can post comments on your blog. This option ensures that the blog post is private as it is invisible to other students.

If you select the “Anyone on this site” option, then others will be able to read your posts and comment on them. If the information is not private or confidential then this is a good way to make it available to other students and get their input.

Note: For internship courses, it is essential that you select the “Yourself” option. By doing this it will ensure that the blog posts can only be seen by you, the Internship Coordinator and your Mentor. From time to time both of these people may comment on your blog posts.

8.4 Getting Help

If you need assistance in using Moodle or Email then please contact the Laidlaw Helpdesk.

- By phone – 09-837 9782 or from on campus dial ext: 882.
- By email – ithelpdesk@laidlaw.ac.nz
- Or the online helpdesk <http://helpdesk.laidlaw.ac.nz>