Blackboard Teaching Guide - Getting Started (Ultra Course View)
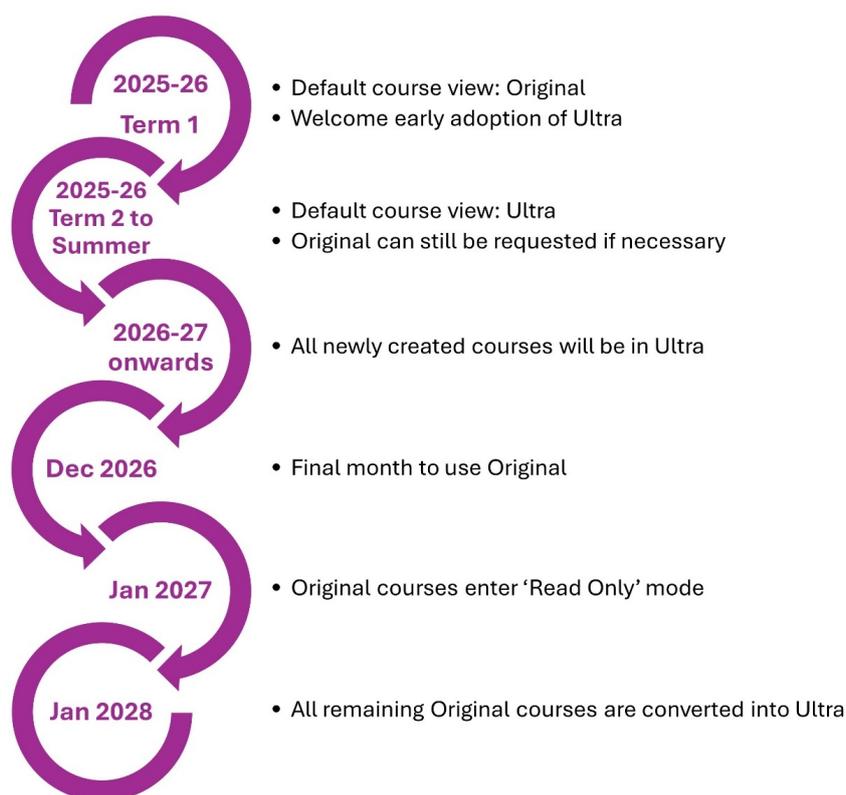
Last Modified on 26/03/2026 4:11 pm HKT

Retirement of Blackboard Original Course View (Original)

Blackboard will retire Original on 31 Dec 2026.

- December 2026: Final month to use Original
- January 2027: Original courses enter 'Read Only' mode
- January 2028: All remaining Original courses are converted into Ultra courses (Ultra).

In response to the change above:

- 2025-26 Term 1 (2025R1, 2025Y1): The default course view is Original. Early adoption of Ultra is welcome.
- 2025-26 Term 2 to Summer Term (2025R2, 2025R3, 2025R4, 2025S1): The default course view is Ultra. Original can still be requested in case needed.
- 2026-27 academic year onwards: Newly created courses will be in Ultra.

2025-26 Term 1
- Default course view: Original
- Welcome early adoption of Ultra

2025-26 Term 2 to Summer
- Default course view: Ultra
- Original can still be requested if necessary

2026-27 onwards
- All newly created courses will be in Ultra

Dec 2026
- Final month to use Original

Jan 2027
- Original courses enter 'Read Only' mode

Jan 2028
- All remaining Original courses are converted into Ultra

Key Benefits of Ultra

- Continuous innovation with monthly updates
- Built-in smart tools (e.g., AI Conversation, AI Design Assistant)
- Streamlined workflows
- Improved student experience

- Insightful analytics

To gain a firsthand understanding of Ultra:

- Enrol yourself in Blackboard Orientation for Learners (ITSC-BL-BOL) (https://help.edtech.cuhk.edu.hk/docs/blackboard-orientation-for-learners) to explore Ultra from a student's perspective.
- Explore the short video tutorials (https://www.youtube.com/@AnthologyInc/playlists) to get a quick overview of Ultra's features.
- A copy of your 2024-25 courses in Ultra will be available (tentatively around late July / August 2025) on Blackboard for your preview of your existing courses. Stay tuned.
  - If you typically reuse content by copying courses, we recommend reviewing the converted course first. This will help you decide whether to rebuild the course in Ultra or continue using the course copy feature (https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Instructor/Ultra/Course_Content/Reuse_Content/Ultra_Copy_Content) in Ultra.

Your Learning Guide

- Webinars (2025-26)
  - The Educator Insights series (Cantonese and English) (https://help.edtech.cuhk.edu.hk/docs/anthology-educator-insights-2025)
- Blackboard Learn Ultra End User Training – Recordings & Handouts
  - Nov 2025 (https://help.edtech.cuhk.edu.hk/docs/blackboard-learn-ultra-end-user-training-nov-2025)
  - Dec 2025 (https://help.edtech.cuhk.edu.hk/docs/blackboard-learn-ultra-end-user-training-dec-2025)
  - Step-by-step guide (for staff) (https://gocuhk-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/edt-training_cuhk_edu_hk/Efr5zGSY7hlPky84X1-fA_oBboNsW4G12a_fSjJBduwYIw)
- Online training courses
  - Quick Start for Online Teaching (ITSC-QSOT) (https://help.edtech.cuhk.edu.hk/docs/quick-start-for-online-teaching-itsc-qsot)
  - Blackboard Teaching Essentials (ITSC-BL-BTE) (https://help.edtech.cuhk.edu.hk/docs/blackboard-teaching-essentials)
  - Intermediate Blackboard Course Development (ITSC-BL-IBCD) (https://help.edtech.cuhk.edu.hk/docs/intermediate-blackboard-course-development)
- Blackboard Teaching Guide

  1. Course and User Management (https://help.edtech.cuhk.edu.hk/docs/blackboard-teaching-guide-course-and-user-management)
     - This article outlines five types of requests you can submit: Combining courses, Disabling course(s), Creating Non-CUSIS course(s), Copying course(s), and Enrolling User(s).
  2. Integrations (https://help.edtech.cuhk.edu.hk/docs/blackboard-teaching-guide-integrations):
     - Blackboard is integrated with several platforms to enhance your teaching and learning experience. Explore this article to discover the full range of features available through Blackboard and its integrated tools.
  3. Resources (https://help.edtech.cuhk.edu.hk/docs/blackboard-teaching-guide-resources):
     - This page offers resources on Blackboard Ultra and other eLearning-related information to support your academic needs.

- Blackboard Help and Highlights (https://help.edtech.cuhk.edu.hk/docs/blackboard-help-and-highlights)
- YouTube video tutorials (https://www.youtube.com/@AnthologyInc/playlists)
- Considerations when moving to UCV.pdf (https://gocuhk-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/edt-training_cuhk_edu_hk/EQaXByGTMfRGmzvSWCIM63wBuMsbdmY-PPrIWApWfV8RPg) (For staff only. For research postgraduate teaching assistants, please contact your teacher (or support staff at the department) to get a

copy of the file.)

Important information

- Access to Blackboard Courses and Panopto Videos (https://help.edtech.cuhk.edu.hk/docs/access-to-blackboard-courses-and-panopto-videos)
  - Access to Blackboard and Panopto is **time-limited** and **depends on your role in the courses**.
  - **Alumni and users with expired CUHK accounts will no longer have access** to these platforms.
  - Please ensure you download any necessary information before your access expires.
- Points to note for students regarding Blackboard assignment and test submissions (https://help.edtech.cuhk.edu.hk/docs/points-to-note-for-students-regarding-blackboard-assignment-and-test-submissions) (Please share it with your students)

FAQ

Sign on

- Troubleshooting problems signing in Blackboard (https://help.edtech.cuhk.edu.hk/docs/troubleshooting-problems-signing-in-blackboard)
- How to sign in Blackboard App? (https://help.edtech.cuhk.edu.hk/docs/blackboard-app)

Make Courses Available to Students

- Course Settings (https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Instructor/Ultra/Courses/Course_Settings)

Course Tools

- How do I find my course tools (such as Panopto, CUHK User Management Tool)? (https://help.edtech.cuhk.edu.hk/docs/locating-tools-in-blackboard-ultra-courses)
- How to enroll users in my Blackboard course? (https://help.edtech.cuhk.edu.hk/docs/blackboard-cuhk-user-management)

Assignments and Tests

- What students should do if they have submitted a wrong assignment attempt? (https://help.edtech.cuhk.edu.hk/docs/resubmit-an-assignment)
- What Instructors and TA/Support Staff can do if they would like to allow students to submit an additional attempt to Blackboard? (https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Instructor/Ultra/Grading/Attempt_Management)

For more Q&A, please check out Blackboard Help and Highlights (https://help.edtech.cuhk.edu.hk/docs/blackboard-help-and-highlights).

Hands-on

Ready to put your knowledge into action? Use these resources to reinforce and experiment with what you have learnt.

- Request a sandbox (blank testing course, with no enrolment) and try out the features.
  - Quick start checklist (https://help.edtech.cuhk.edu.hk/docs/blackboard-quick-start-checklist-for-staff-users): A step-by-step guide for you to master the core features
- In case you...
  - cannot find the sandbox on Blackboard Courses page
  - need extra sandboxes
  - would like to specifically try out the gradebook feature in a practice course (i.e., a course with mock data)

Please contact us: ITSC Service Desk (https://servicedesk.itsc.cuhk.edu.hk) or elearning@cuhk.edu.hk.

Feedback and Support

- Blackboard (Ultra) Survey (Teachers/TA/Support Staff) (https://cloud.itsc.cuhk.edu.hk/webform/view.php?id=13711975)
- Contact us: ITSC Service Desk (https://servicedesk.itsc.cuhk.edu.hk) or elearning@cuhk.edu.hk