

Which lecture recording option?

This resource will help you to select the right lecture recording tool for your needs. Sheffield Hallam provides Blackboard Collaborate Ultra, Panopto, and Zoom. All support the sharing and recording of content on the lecturer's screen, voice and optional webcam video. There is a brief overview of the strengths of each tool below, followed by tables which detail how each tool handles common teaching and learning activities. Recommendations are made where the ability of one tool to support an activity clearly exceeds the others.



Blackboard Collaborate Ultra is a video conferencing tool that is part of Blackboard. The ability to integrate the tool with your Blackboard module site, including automatically having private 'rooms' for groups of students, and its orientation towards teaching purposes are its main strengths. Collaborate makes it very easy to set up virtual drop-ins as well as scheduled sessions.

Recommended for: Seminars/Discussions; Interactive (Live) Online Lectures; Assessed Presentations



Zoom is an extremely popular general-purpose video conferencing tool. Its particular strength is its ability to reliably stream a large number of video and audio feeds simultaneously and display them in a single view. It also offers a simple way to share files during the session, which can be useful when students are given exercises to work on.

Recommended for: Seminars/Discussions; Interactive (Live) Online Lectures; Assessed Presentations



Panopto is a widely-used lecture capture and video distribution tool. While it can be used to broadcast live teaching sessions, its real strength lies in creating and distributing recorded teaching sessions to students. Students can make private notes within the recording and subtitles are generated automatically. Recordings made with other software, including Collaborate and Zoom, can be uploaded to Panopto.

Recommended for: Flipped Lectures (information delivery), Assessed Presentation

Activity	Tool	Recommendation	Details
Flipped Lectures (information delivery)	Collaborate		There is a 'share file' feature you can use to upload PowerPoints in advance of the session and share during teaching.
	Zoom		You can share a PowerPoint by sharing your screen. Use only if you feel confident with managing live screen sharing.
	Panopto	Recommended	Can be used to capture both PowerPoints and the live screen simultaneously. Students can search videos for slide content, text displayed on screen and spoken words.
Interactive (Live) Online Lectures	Collaborate		Polls, breakout rooms, video sharing, audio sharing and screen sharing are all available.
	Zoom		Polls, breakout rooms, video sharing, audio sharing and screen sharing are all available. Note that some of the features such as breakout groups and polls need to be enabled in settings or set up in advance of the session.
	Panopto		Can live stream as well as record presentations. Limited live interactive features.
Seminars/ Discussions	Collaborate		When fewer than 6 participants share their video, they display in a 'gallery view' where you can see all users at once. When more than 6 participants share it switches to 'follow the speaker' mode, where only the video of the person speaking is shown.

	Zoom	Recommended	Zoom is the best option for when you want to see participants' faces. There is a gallery view feature that enables you to see up to 49 participants at once. When a participant speaks their video is highlighted making it is easy to identify who is talking.
	Panopto		Panopto provides limited live interactive features, so other options are recommended when live online teaching is required. However, Panopto will be available in on-campus teaching spaces to make creating a recording of a face-to-face session straightforward. Recordings from other tools can also be uploaded into Panopto, where they will benefit for automatic subtitling and other features.
Labs	Collaborate		For computer-based labs, breakout rooms can be used for students to privately share their screen and discuss their work with lecturers. Students can be temporarily given raised privileges to allow them to share their screen with the whole cohort.
	Zoom		Breakouts in Zoom can be used to allow students to share their screen, as with Collaborate.
	Panopto		Mobile phones can be used as additional cameras for recording demonstrations, with Panopto synchronising the different elements into a single recording. This is useful for switching between slide/screen content and physical objects, such as demonstrating how software controls affects the operation of a piece of machinery, or showing the theory followed by the practice.

Assessed presentations

Collaborate

Recommended for assessed group presentations. You can enable student group collaborate rooms in Blackboard Groups so that students can practice beforehand in their own time or pre-record their submission. For the presentation you can promote all students in the group to 'presenter' so they can control the session. Any recordings of the assessment will be stored within the Blackboard module site and can be reviewed by the external assessor.

Zoom

Students can create their own zoom accounts to practice delivery. In your session you can give them permission to share video, audio and content. You can record the session for external assessors and control viewer access to the recording with password protection.

Panopto

Panopto can configured to provide secure space for students to submit videos, such as presentation recordings, for assessment. There is no size limit on uploads.