



NTU Student Dashboard: A Guide for Students

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Introduction

This short guide will help you understand what the NTU Student Dashboard is, why it is useful and how to use it. The Dashboard has become a well-used resource: in 2015-16 there were over 350, 000 student and staff log-ins. This guide will help you make the most of the Dashboard. For an overview of how the University uses learning analytics please take a look at the 'Student Guide to Learning Analytics at NTU'.

What is the Student Dashboard?

The Student Dashboard is an online resource to help you understand how well you are engaging with your studies. It is a simple tool that gives you an understanding of how often you engage with your studies compared with other students on your course.

The NTU Student Dashboard measures your engagement in various ways including:

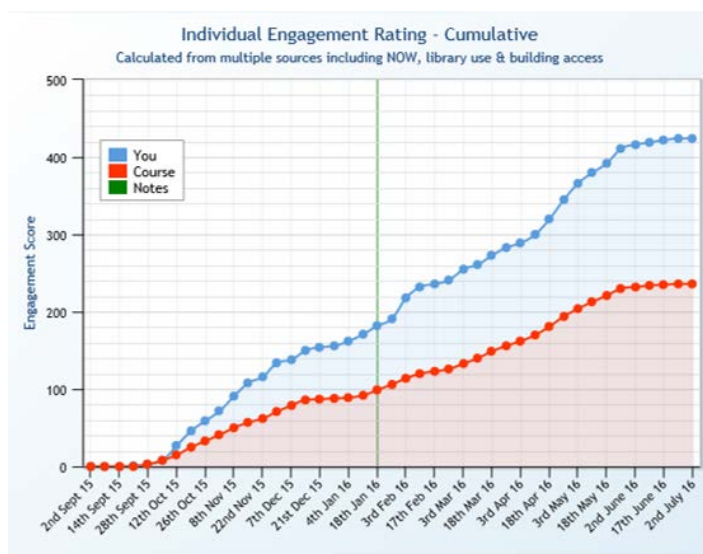
- Library use
- Use of NOW
- Card swipes into NTU buildings
- Submitting course work through the NOW Dropbox

In 2015-16 we started displaying attendance data and e-book usage but these measures are not yet included in the calculation, this will be a future development.

The Dashboard takes this data and creates a graph containing your engagement score and an average engagement score for everyone on your course, in your year. It then uses detail about your activity, compared with previous students on your course, to give you one of 4 engagement ratings:

- High
- Good
- Partial
- Low

If your status shows as 'not fully enrolled' it means either you did not complete enrolment at the start of the year or you have left early.



The ratings update every night and the graph will update once per week. This means that if you have a low score, you can potentially improve it very quickly through your efforts. At NTU we have gathered strong evidence that a higher engagement level results in higher academic success. In 2013-14, 81% of final year students with a high average engagement rating achieved a 2:1 or 1st compared to only 42% of students with a low average engagement.

How can the Dashboard help me with my studies?

The Dashboard is primarily a tool for you. It provides a good overview of your learning activities compared with your peers. Of course it's not perfect, but it can provide a valuable insight into how much work you are doing. It is a useful resource to check from time to time. Many students, particularly first years, struggle to understand how much work they're expected to do, and the Dashboard can help.

If your engagement is high, well done, you're doing a lot to maximise your chance of success. Please do remember that whilst high engagement will improve your chance of success it doesn't guarantee it. You probably don't need to do more, but could you be studying differently? Please check your grades, you might be putting a lot of effort in, but is this being translated into good grades? If not what might you do differently?

If your engagement is low, is it because you've been doing other activities in the past few days? You may have been on a trip, gone home for a few days or been revising. These things may cause your engagement score to drop temporarily. If so, then just get back to your studies: use the library, check into NOW etc. If your engagement has been low for a while it may be that you are doing a lot of activity that isn't being picked up by the Dashboard, or it may be that you are genuinely doing less work than your peers. A low engagement can be a useful sign to stop and think. If you'd like support or advice on how to increase your engagement, your person tutor is there to help.

We want you to gain as much as possible from your studies and recognise that studying for a degree is a huge commitment. It is really important that by the end of your studies you have developed both subject knowledge and the skills and competencies that graduate recruiters are looking for. The dashboard gives you a live update that you can use to check how well you are progressing. You remain in charge of your studies, but you can see both the risks and benefits of how you are engaging with your studies. We are always looking to improve and develop it to enable you to progress and succeed on your course to the best of your ability.

Where do I find the Dashboard?

There is a link to the Student Dashboard at the top of the NOW screen you see immediately after logging in.



How do I use the Dashboard?

The Dashboard contains a wide range of information showing how you are engaging with your studies. You may find it useful to explore the different sections:

- Dashboard – see your engagement graphs and your engagement ratings
- Profile – see key information about you, change your details, and view your engagement history
- Notes and Referrals – see actions agreed with your tutor including referrals to central services
- Attendance – see your overall attendance for the year and your most recent weekly attendance
- NOW Usage – see your most recent log-ins to NOW and NOW resource rooms
- Library Loans – see the dates and times of your library loans
- E-resource Usage – see your ten most recent log-ins to access e-resources on library databases
- Campus Access – see your most recent card swipes used to enter University buildings
- Assessments – see all assessments and feedback submitted through the NOW Dropbox

What if I have a query about the Dashboard?

Please see the table below for details of who to contact.

Query	Who to contact
I'd like to better understand my engagement score, and consider how to improve it	You can find information about this at the bottom of the 'Dashboard' tab or speak to your tutor.
I'm looking for help with my studies or other issues	There are a range of support services available for more information see the 'Help' tab on the left hand side of the Dashboard
I'm experiencing some technical difficulties with the Dashboard or I'd like to leave feedback about it.	Please contact the Information Systems Service Desk. You can send an email to support@ntu.ac.uk or phone internally to extension 88500 or externally on +44 (0)115 848 8500 .
I'd like make a suggestion about how to improve the Dashboard	We'd love to hear from you. Please contact the Service Desk as detailed above.