Engage – A student’s guide to making the most of lecture recording

Introduction to this guide

This short guide has been designed to provide you with some top tips to help you get the most out of your recorded lectures at the University of Nottingham.

1. Why record my lectures?

Lecture recording can help you to:

1. Focus more during the lecture instead of worrying about frantically taking notes.
2. Catch up with any lectures you may miss when absent, so you don’t miss out on any key content or discussions.
3. Review or repeat any sections of the lecture you found to be difficult to understand during live delivery.

2. Not all interactions are recorded

The Engage Platform, delivered by Echo360, contributes to active learning within the University but will not necessarily be used in every class you have. If your lecturer is using the system, they’ll let you know and explain how they’ll be using it with you.

If your lecture is being recorded, it’s likely that your lecturer may occasionally pause the recording for discussions, interactions or other reasons, so not everything discussed in a lecture will necessarily be recorded.

3. Recordings are to supplement lectures, not replace them

Your lectures are not recorded and shared with you as an alternative to you attending them – they are supplementary. Therefore, you are still expected to attend lectures as normal.

In any case, you may find viewing lectures live more engaging than watching a recorded version.

4. You may be recorded

Given the nature of lecture recording, there is a chance that you may appear in video recordings, either visually or audibly. If you would like to minimise the chances of appearing in the video, it’s recommended you position yourself slightly further back in the lecture theatre.

You should also be aware that if you participate in discussions or demonstrations, you may also appear in the video recording.

Your lecturer should remind you before the session begins that it is being recorded and will be made available to you to view later.

5. Where can I find my lecture recordings?

Your lecturer will make recordings available to you on Engage which can be accessed via your course’s (module’s) Moodle page.

You will need to have clicked on at least one Engage link in Moodle before you can log in via echo360.org.uk or the app.
If you want to interact with a presentation provided by your teacher (and if the teacher has not provided a direct link) you will need to click on the Engage icon in that module in Moodle and, if using a mobile device, have installed the app before you will be able to do so.

6. When is the best time to watch my recordings?

Simple answer – anytime. The great thing about having your lectures recorded is that you can decide when and where you want to watch them.

You may wish to watch a lecture recording immediately after your lecture (provided it has been made available by your lecturer) to go over any sections you found difficult to understand, or to create additional notes on this content.

Perhaps a few weeks have passed since the original lecture and you want to see how much of what was covered you still remember, or to remind yourself of key topics. Another great time to review your lecture recordings is during the period leading up to exams.

7. Watch in a way that suits you

Think carefully about the environment where you’ll watch your lecture recordings. Try to view them in a quiet and comfortable location, where you can concentrate and are less likely to be disturbed. You can also use the Echo360 app to view recordings on a mobile device.

Depending on the lecture recording you are viewing, you may wish to use some of the more advanced video playback options. For example, if the lecturer is speaking too quickly, you can slow the video down. Likewise, you can speed them up if need be. Find a playback speed that suits you.

8. Don’t just memorise lectures

Although your lectures are available for your viewing on demand, you should think carefully about how often you watch them and what you’re actually learning from them.

Lectures should be the beginning of your learning process, from which you build upon. Watching lectures over and over with the aim of memorising the content is not recommended. Instead, focus on any content you don’t fully understand and wish to learn more about, then look into building on this.

Further help and support

For further information on Engage, including explanations of all the features, visit the Introduction to Engage for Students page on Moodle.

If you have any problems with Engage and you can’t find the answer in the FAQs on the Moodle page, please contact the IT service desk.

Adapted from the University of Edinburgh’s Media Hopper Replay’s “A student’s guide to making the most of lecture recording”

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