Blackboard Collaborate Alternatives

When to use an alternative to Collaborate?

Blackboard Collaborate can be found in MyAberdeen and should be the default choice for courses teaching online. If Collaborate is unavailable (e.g. due to high demand), the fall-back position would then be to use an alternative tool from Microsoft Office.

What are the alternatives?

All staff have access to Microsoft Office 365 which includes Teams. Students do not have access to the desktop application but can join a call from a shared web link.

Instructions for staff

1. Open MS Teams
2. Select the Calendar
3. Select Meet Now
4. Select Join
5. On the top right panel, next to ‘Invite Someone’, select the link icon (this will copy a web link to the clipboard)
6. Share this link on MyAberdeen for your students to access along with instructions to join.
7. When students are joining your session, they will be given access to a ‘lobby’ area. In the People/Participants panel select the Tick icon (top right) to add an individual to your meeting room or choose ‘Admit All’.

Useful links

- Teaching Remotely
- Toolkit resources on Collaborate
- Toolkit resource on MS Teams
- Toolkit resource on Skype for Business
- Course Design Guidelines
- www.abdn.ac.uk/ulearning

Alternative tools should only be used for teaching if Blackboard Collaborate is unavailable. The status of Collaborate is shown on the Blackboard Services Status.