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*To:*

International Journal of Technology in Education Editorial Office

Manuscript submission – Cover Letter

Dear Editor, 4th July 2023

Please find the enclosed manuscript entitled “Using a survey and discussion forums on students’ satisfaction and experience to inform the development of a new VLE: A data-driven approach to technology use in learning and teaching” to be considered for publication in International Journal of Technology in Education. The authors are Dr Stephanie Baines (Stephanie.Baines@brunel.ac.uk, ORCID ID 0000-0001-7293-9517), Dr Sofia Barbosa Bouças (Sofia.Barbosaboucas@brunel.ac.uk; ORCID ID 0000-0001-8155-2867) and Dr Pauldy CJ Otermans (Pauldy.Otermans@brunel.ac.uk; ORCID ID 0000-0001-8495-348X). The author affiliation for all authors is Division of Psychology, Department of Life Sciences, Brunel University London. The corresponding author is Dr Stephanie Baines, with corresponding address of Division of Psychology, Department of Life Sciences, Brunel University London, Kingston Lane, UB8 3PH Uxbridge.

Declarations:

Competing interests: Not applicable

Authors' contributions

* SBB and PO created the project and collected the data
* SB and PO analysed the data
* SB and PO wrote up the paper with input from SBB

In this research article we sought to test the satisfaction of psychology students with the layout used in our current VLE, Blackboard Learn (BbL). Using an online survey, students rated their satisfaction separately for each element of the BbL template on a 7-point Likert-type scale, from 1 (‘extremely dissatisfied)’ to 7 (‘extremely satisfied’). Eighty-seven students enrolled in the BSc Psychology (N = 68) and BSc Psychology (Sport, Health and Exercise) (N = 19) programmes completed the survey. Results showed that, overall, students were very satisfied with their BbL structure. Open-text comments indicated that students appreciated the clear, organised structure, making it very easy to navigate. However, students suggested clearer labelling and a higher level of consistency across modules would improve their learning. These findings will be used to inform the template of our new VLE. We believe that these results are relevant and of interest to the readership of International Journal of Technology in Education. We’d be most grateful if our study would be considered for publication. This manuscript is original and is not under current consideration elsewhere.

Yours Sincerely,



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