

# University of Leeds accomplishes a “Digital by default” strategy with Gradescope by Turnitin



## Challenge

The University of Leeds first began piloting Gradescope by Turnitin to support their digital assessment strategy in January 2020, holding training sessions for interested academics such as Dr. Samantha Pugh and Dr. Duncan Borman. The University forecasted that the rollout would take around two years. However, when the UK went into lockdown, there was a clear need to move assessment online—and quickly.

## Solution

When learning moved remote in 2020, the need for Gradescope became critical, and full adoption took place in just 2 months, instead of the planned 2 years. With a single login through their familiar Blackboard LMS, instructors were able to easily link Gradescope assignments to their courses.

Gradescope by Turnitin helps educators build, administer, organize, grade, and report on handwritten/paper-based and digital assessments and assignments. The platform works for all course modalities (in-person, remote, and hybrid), answer types, and subject areas.

Gradescope allows educators to have more time to spend with their students by reducing the administrative tasks associated with grading. With AI assistance, Gradescope auto-groups similar answers together, allowing human graders to score and give feedback on groups of similar responses at one time.

## Learning impact outcomes

More than 3,000 educators and 15,000 students at the University of Leeds continue to use Gradescope for modernized assessment administration, even with the return to campus.

**Functionally, Gradescope helps increase personalized learning in four key ways:**

- 1 More time for student-teacher interaction
- 2 Personalized feedback
- 3 Evaluation fairness
- 4 Performance insights to inform instruction

As Gradescope stands by itself as an assessment platform or it works into the established process, educators can use their existing content or build new materials in the platform. Because of these features, Gradescope helps classrooms with limited technology to access benefits similar to technologically advanced classrooms, such as streamlined content management and learning insights—critical to helping classroom equity.

**“Academic staff took to Gradescope very well. Even those who had been nervous about that digital transition gave very good feedback. From there, other schools became interested and began using it.”**



**Dr. Duncan Borman**, Associate Professor, working in the school of Civil Engineering & Academic Lead for Digital Assessment

**Globally, 110,000 educators and 2.7 million students from 2,600 institutions have used Gradescope.**

## Return on investment

The University of Leeds rolled out their “Digital by default” strategy with the aim to make assessment submission, storage, and grading all online. With Gradescope, the University of Leeds was able to achieve its goal of providing an advanced online education experience to its students and educators.

Dr. Pugh stated, **“digital strategy is very important. It’s the future of education and of work. As educators and practitioners, it’s important that we embrace digital technology for our own benefit, and especially to benefit our students. Digital technology is going to be their working world, so it’s important they are prepared for that.”**



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