

Why keep a blog?

By writing things down not only will it help you record an event, but also it will help you to clarify your thoughts and emotions. It can also help you to work out strategies for coping in the future and to think about what training or further development you require. You may use an entry in a blog as evidence of learning, in preparation for tutorials, or as a basis for discussion with tutors especially to your Personal Academic Tutor (PAT).

What should I write in my blog?

You can blog about a learning experience or an achievement in your ePortfolio, but basically anything that helps you to reflect on:

- Your emotions and feelings about your studies;
- Things you find challenging;
- How you can do things differently in the future;
- Yourself and how you learn and don't learn;
- Your studies and how they relate to your life and your life outside of your studies;
- How different ideas in different modules relate to each other.

What style should I write in my blog?

Some of you will be very familiar with blogging as a style of writing whereas for others blogging will be a new experience. Blogging provides the writer with a degree of freedom as blogs are written accounts of personal experiences, almost like keeping a personal diary. Remember; however, as you are a member of QMU not to abuse our systems and to conduct your writings in an appropriate manner, which includes taking care to avoid plagiarism or the use of inflammatory or libelous writings. Please remember that as a QMU student you have agreed to adhere to the IT acceptable use policy which you will find on the [Information Services Policies](#) page.

Also, be extremely careful if you are writing about clients or patients – make sure that this is anonymised.

Who reads my blog?

Your blog is for you: it is individual and personal. You should write the blog for yourself unless you have been specifically requested by your tutor to share your blog. It can be quite daunting writing a blog, but you do not share it and it gives you a space to try ideas without necessarily letting anyone know about them.

Why would I share my blog?

Your blog can be shared with fellow learners or tutors, perhaps to seek reassurance about thoughts and feelings while experiencing new learning or to share experiences in preparation for a new learning experience.

Blogging is very personal and remember, very private, so it is only you who can release your blogs for others to read. Don't forget: you may not wish to release all of your blog – only particular sections of the blog. This is possible by sharing specific 'posts' which are sections of a blog. Alternatively, you can remove certain areas of a blog (posts) and then share the blog.