

# 7 ways to get the most out of Lecture Capture: A Guide for students

Centre for Technology Enhanced Learning

## 1. Why use the lecture recordings?

Recordings of lectures (lecture captures) offer another chance for you to review the lecture at a time and a place that suits you. You might use the recordings for:

1. Note-taking – so that you can concentrate better during the lecture and not focus on taking copious notes.
2. Difficult concepts – to repeat and review parts of the lecture you didn't understand.
3. Occasional back-up – if you have to miss a lecture.
4. Revision and consolidation - to use as an additional resource.

### *Comments from students:*

"We can listen and take the lecture in when watching it for the first time instead of furiously writing things down."

"I like that I had the opportunity to go back to a lecture and listen again when I didn't understand the lecturer because he/she was either speaking fast or unclear, or the topic was complicated."

"If I miss a lecture they're the next best thing. I would always much rather be there."

"It's good for revision: going over what you know, but also picking up little details that maybe you missed out the first time you were in the lecture."

## 2. Do you still need to go to lectures?

Yes, lecture captures are a supplement rather than a replacement for lectures. Don't use the lecture capture as an excuse not to attend lectures or not to concentrate while there. The live lectures are more engaging than the recordings, and they help you structure your time and to get to know people on your course.

### *Comments from students:*

"I seem to remember more when I am hearing it straight from the speaker – for instance eye-contact really helps my concentration. Also I like the atmosphere of a large lecture hall."

"Last year I was thinking: I don't miss anything out by not going to the actual lectures. I realised that that's actually nonsense...so I now try to attend as much as I can."

"Go to the lecture! It's not a substitute and you can't ask the video questions – the video is good for those hard concepts you can't seem to wrap your head around, or for those days when your concentration was not at its best."

"I would feel very isolated if I stayed at home and watched lecture recordings."

## 3. Don't rely on them

Not all teaching interactions are recorded – there are many reasons why a lecturer might choose not to have their lectures recorded. It's possible too, for lecturers to pause and resume the recording during a session.

Moreover, don't just rely on lecture material (whether the lectures themselves, handouts, notes or recordings to support your learning). If you don't understand something, look for alternative explanations, ask your peers and/or check your course space on KEATS.

### *Comments from students:*

"Don't just rely on the lecture, as it's an overview of the subject and you still have to read around the subject."

"If I was just watching the lectures online it would be too easy to fall behind."

## 4. Be selective!

Don't try to watch all of the captured lectures, prioritise the important or difficult ones, check your notes/handouts first. In fact, why not make notes during the lecture to guide your review schedule.

Simply put, decide on the main purpose for watching the lecture capture.

**Comments from students:**

“Don’t listen to every lecture twice. Some lectures are quite straightforward. Some lectures you can look at the notes and you see that you’ll be able to revise from paper notes or from the slides really easily.”

“You’re not here to memorise 200 hours of lectures.”

“Read over the lecture slides first and then watch the parts of the lecture that you are unclear about.”

“Mark on the lecture handout with a star or something the sections you will want to listen to again, and the rough time, to help you find it later on.”

## 5. Use your time well

Work out where you concentrate best and try to stay focused on watching the lecture capture.

There are a number of options that allow you to adjust the speed at which you review the recording. Slow them down if the lecturer talked too fast through complicated points, or speed up for a quick recap of the bits you’re more confident with.

**Comments from students:**

“Have nothing else open on the computer; use at a time when you can best concentrate”

“Do it alongside your lecture notes and a good textbook.”

“You can stop and rewind, re-listen to sections you don’t understand and skip the parts you already know.”

## 6. When should you use them?

Lecture capture can be used:

Immediately after a lecture

- To pick up things that you may have missed in class the first time around.
- To revisit complex ideas and concepts that may have not been clear at the time of the lecture.
- To review and enhance your notes on the lecture topic.

A few weeks after a lecture

- To help consolidate what was covered in the lecture.

Prior to examinations

- When revising for exams as a revision tool.
- To refresh your understanding of the entire lecture series
- To review any advice offered on the study/examination techniques

**Comments from students:**

“Try to watch the recordings if you need to as soon as possible after attending the lecture, so you can clear up anything you don’t understand and make any relevant notes while the subject content is still fresh in your mind.”

“Watch again a few weeks later – basic concepts are clearer by then, allowing you to re-watch and pick up finer more detailed points of lecture.”

## 7. What formats are available

Once lectures are captured all recordings are made available for viewing through a link via KEATS.

This link will be to the Echo360 Classroom, that provides you with an interface where you are able to view the lecture slides and a video of your lecturer.

**Comments from students:**

“It’s the experience that’s most similar to actually being in the lecture”

“I am able to see the lecturer’s expressions, demonstrations and laser pointer on the screen whilst able to follow what the lecturer is saying with each slide.”

## Find out more

IT support and advice for students & staff (Internal King’s pages): <https://internal.kcl.ac.uk/it/index.aspx>

King’s Student Computing: <https://internal.kcl.ac.uk/it/student/index.aspx>

This briefing is one of a series of Quick Guides focussed on enhancing your student experience at King’s. More guides can be found at: [www.kcl.ac.uk/kings-quickguides](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/kings-quickguides)

If you have comments about this guide, please contact the Centre for Technology Enhanced Learning: [ctel@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:ctel@kcl.ac.uk)

This guide draws on the outputs and work from a King’s Technology Enhanced Learning project led by Dr. Ron Jacob and Leonie Sloman.