



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

PADLET IN CANVAS

COPYRIGHT - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

This factsheet is intended for University of Newcastle staff members to use in the context of their employment only and provides general advice. University staff should contact the Copyright Advisor if they have specific questions or concerns.

What is Padlet?

LDTI are promoting the [use of Padlet in Canvas courses](#) as a way to engage students. Padlet allows for creation of virtual bulletin boards where users can upload, share, and organise comments and content.

'Third-party' copyright and Padlet

When you add images, graphs, tables, text, memes, etc., to your course materials from sources such as books, articles, and the Internet, this is known as using third-party copyright. When reusing this external content, there are requirements you must follow in your course so that you do not infringe copyright. [UON's Copyright Compliance Guidelines](#)

Padlet allows users to share external content (including images, documents, links, etc.), so there may be possibility of unintentional copyright infringement in course Padlets. Content added to Padlet will fall into two categories, where it's: (i) added by staff; and (ii) added by students.

'Fair dealing' and the 'educational statutory licence'

Fair dealing is a collection of exceptions in the *Copyright Act 1968* (the Act) that allow for certain uses of copyright material without infringement. The defined fair dealing exceptions cover 'research or study', 'criticism or review', 'parody or satire', and others. Where student-use of material falls into these categories, students may be able to rely on fair dealing for their own use of material within a course. Note that the fair dealing exceptions are quite strict – 'research or study', for example, does not cover staff use within a course, and use of images should directly relate to the subject area being studied/discussed (i.e. a meme would most likely not be suitable).

The Act also includes an exception, known as the educational statutory licence (or S113P), which allows for teaching staff to share certain third-party content for educational purposes without infringing copyright. There are some restrictions:

- Material used must be housed in a secure environment, with access limited to students of the University;
- You must include a copyright warning notice "on or with" the material (see **Best Practice**, below);
- There may be limits on how much (and where) you can reproduce material, depending on the type.

So while general student use may be covered by fair dealing, once the material has been shared in the course, the use becomes educational and, therefore, reliant on the statutory licence. The potential clash between these two exceptions can be an issue here – usage of some material, that may otherwise be covered by fair dealing for student-use, can be restricted from use/sharing in courses under the statutory licence.

What shouldn't be posted to course Padlets

Here are some general guidelines for what **should not be posted** to an embedded Padlet in Canvas:

- Links to any infringing content;
- PDFs of documents (use links or add these to [Course Readings](#) instead);
- Images not directly related to the course of study/discussion;
- Music files, etc. (not allowed under our Tertiary Music Agreement – see 'Using Music' on [Copyright for Teaching](#)).

Course coordinators are ultimately responsible for course copyright compliance and may need to enforce these guidelines.

Best practice

- Be clear about what the Padlet is for. Is it for questions only? Are you encouraging students to post images, etc.?
- Ensure any third-party documents are added as link-only (or to [Course Readings](#)), and not as PDFs directly in Padlet.
- When students rely on fair dealing, there is no requirement to add a copyright notice, but when material is shared in a course it becomes reliant on the educational statutory licence. To cover usage under the statutory licence, add the [S113P warning notice](#) to (or above/near) the Padlet, and keep an eye on what material has been posted.
- Provide (and encourage use of) source details for images so students understand [citation practices](#).

For more information see **Copyright Support** below.

Copyright Support

Ask a question: newcastle.edu.au/copyright-request

Phone: (02) 492 16456

Web: newcastle.edu.au/copyright-support

Academic Division | Library Services

Last updated 31 October 2022

