

# MUVE, Moodle and a Microblogging Tool: Blending technologies to prepare international students for language and life in the UK

Julie Watson, Ann Jeffery  
Modern Languages  
University of Southampton

# Overview

- M3 Project aims
- The Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle) and online course
- The MUVE (Second Life)
- The Microblogging tool (Twitter)
- Project outcomes

# M3 Project aims

- To integrate Second Life and Twitter with our existing online course in Moodle
- To see what value this might add to students' experience of the online course
- To explore one way of using Second Life and Twitter for educational purposes

# Moodle

- *Arrive UK*
- A 5 week pre-arrival online course for international students
- Focus on living and studying in the UK
- Blends technologies (learning objects, podcasts, vidcasts, discussion forum, chat room)
- E-tutored

# MUVE (Second Life)

Use SL to provide an alternative experience of part of *Arrive UK* (the online course)

Create a purpose built environment in-world where the student community can

- meet and take part in activities with tutor
- use course learning materials adapted/enhanced for SL
- use Twitter for social networking and vidcast-related activity

# SL developments

- Disaggregate and adapt selected Learning Objects for use in SL:

Example: 'Finding out about Southampton'

- THINc book ( history of Southampton, tourist attractions, climate etc)
- Google floor map of south of the UK
- Set of interactive local maps ( differing scales)
- In world quiz


# Find out about Southampton



A view of Southampton

As a student living and studying in Southampton, part of your daily life will involve contact with the city itself. For example, you can expect to do your shopping off campus and you may choose to live in a residential area away from the campus and enjoy the social life of the city centre.

These activities will introduce you to some important facts and points of interest about the city in which you will be living.

-  Dictionary
-  Glossary
-  Weblinks



WANT TO SEE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR ONLINE COURSE?

Click on the screen to see activities and you will see a blue arrow at the top right of your screen and a new window will appear for you to see the activity. 2 activities for you to see



Click the screen

## HISTORY

Southampton is noted for being the home of the ship the Titanic, the Spitfire aircraft, and in recent years, some of the largest cruise liners in the world.

The city has its origins in prehistoric times, but the first settlement was founded by the Romans in AD43. Clausentum, as it was known, was an important trading port for Roman towns of Winchester and Salisbury.

The town was abandoned at the end of the Roman occupation, until Anglo-Saxon settlement in c. 700AD. The town was known as Hamwic, then Hamtun which went on to become Hampton.

Southampton was the departure point of the ship 'Mayflower' in which the Pilgrim Fathers left for America in 1620. The city has also been the port of departure for emigrants to the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and other parts of the world.



## GEOGRAPHY & CLIMATE

Geography and climate are very much influenced by the sea and rivers. The city sits at the northern tip of Southampton Water, a deep-water estuary. Here, the rivers Test and Itchen converge. The Test runs along the western edge of the city.



The Itchen splits Southampton into two, east and west. The city centre is located on the peninsula between the two rivers. Much of the Southampton waterfront has been reclaimed over the years to enable very large ships to use the port.

Weather averages for Southampton (August 2010)

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high °C (°F)	5.0 (41)	5.5 (42)	6.5 (44)	8.0 (46)	10.0 (50)	12.0 (54)	14.0 (57)	15.0 (59)	14.0 (57)	11.0 (52)	8.0 (46)	6.0 (43)
Average low °C (°F)	1.0 (34)	1.0 (34)	1.0 (34)	2.0 (36)	3.0 (37)	4.0 (39)	5.0 (41)	5.0 (41)	4.0 (39)	3.0 (37)	2.0 (36)	1.0 (34)
Precipitation mm (inches)	70 (2.8)	60 (2.4)	50 (2.0)	40 (1.6)	30 (1.2)	20 (0.8)	15 (0.6)	10 (0.4)	15 (0.6)	20 (0.8)	30 (1.2)	40 (1.6)



### Living at the Southcoast

Southampton is a beautiful city with a rich history and a vibrant culture. It is a great place to live, work, and play. The city is home to many of the world's largest cruise liners, and it is a major port for international trade. The city is also home to many of the world's most famous universities, and it is a great place to study and work.

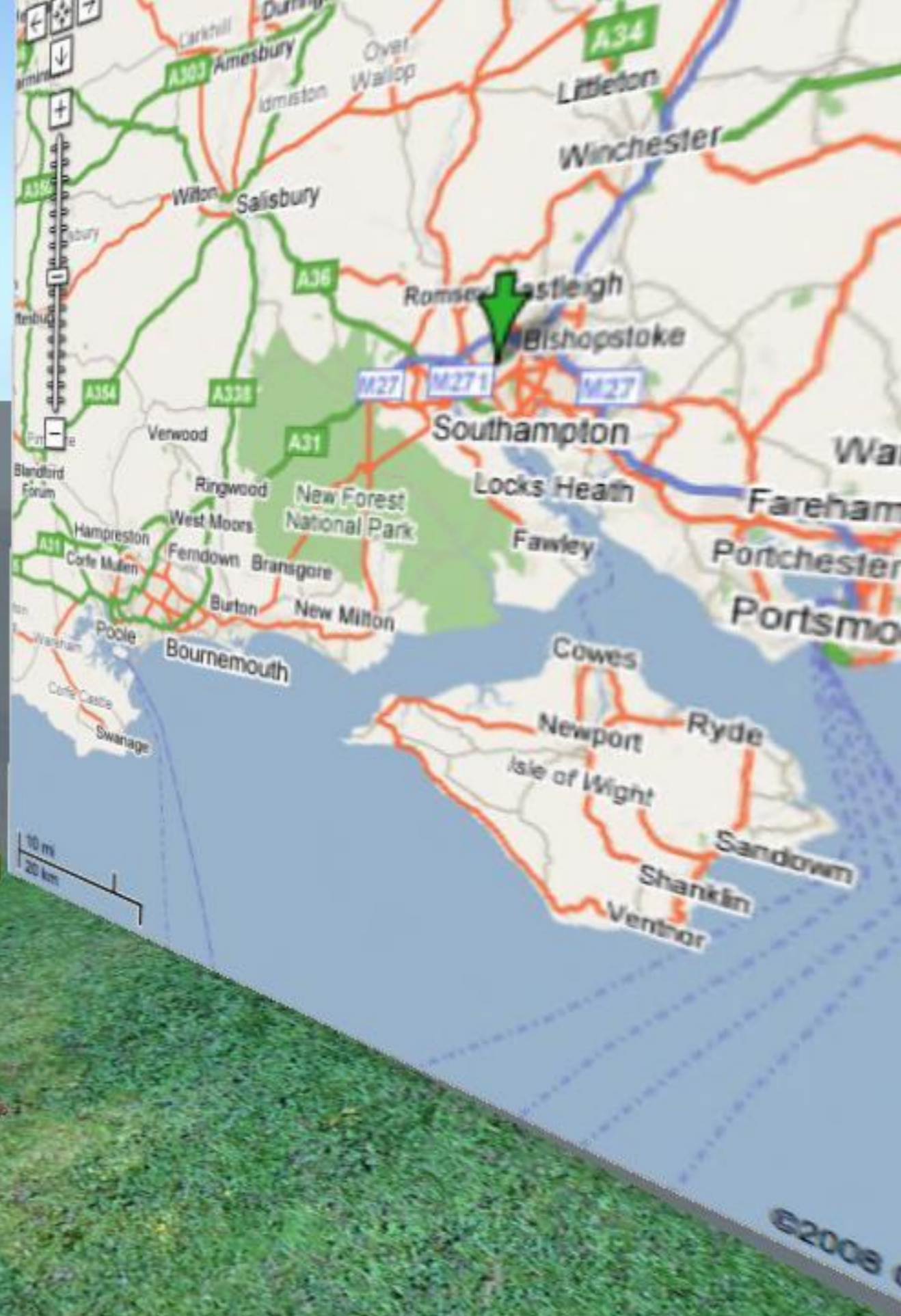




WANT TO LEARN ABOUT  
SOUTHAMPTON?

Click on the screen to your right  
and view a set of 3 maps of  
Southampton.

Click the screen





### ARE YOU FINDING IT TOO DARK?

Using the WORLD map you can adjust the lighting in the ENVIRONMENT SETTINGS.

### HISTORY

Bournemouth is well known for being the home of the city of the future, the Crystal Palace, and is noted more, since the 19th century, as the home of the world's first electric tram.

The city has its origins in prehistoric times, but the first settlement was founded by the Romans in 43 AD. The settlement, as it was known, was an important trading port for the Roman provinces of Wessex and Domesday.

The town was abandoned at the end of the British occupation, with English forces returning in 1794. The town was rebuilt as a seaside town, then known as Bournemouth.

Bournemouth was the departure point of the ship "Mayflower" in which the Pilgrim Fathers left for America in 1620. The ship has also been the point of departure for numerous other ships, including a cruise ship, the Queen Mary 2, and other parts of the world.

### GEOGRAPHY & CLIMATE

Bournemouth and Poole are very much influenced by the sea and rivers. The city sits at the southern tip of Bournemouth Bay, a long narrow estuary. Bournemouth is a coastal town and is known for its sandy beaches and seafront. The town is situated on the western edge of the city.

The Bournemouth coastline is very long, and the town is built on the eastern side of the town. The town is built on the eastern side of the town, and the town is built on the eastern side of the town.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
High	8	9	11	13	15	17	19	18	16	14	11	9
Low	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	11	9	7	5	4
Wind	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	21	19	17	15	13
Humidity	80	75	70	65	60	55	50	55	60	65	70	75
UV Index	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	5	4	3	2



# Twitter (Microblogging tool)

- Link the student community threading their tweets (short messages of 140 chars) to create a community feed
- A specially developed plug-in for Moodle and a Twitter link from SL
- Allowing communication between the students
  - about course resources e.g. vidcasts
  - for social networking purposes
  - from SL, Moodle, the Web, mobile phone

# LANGUAGEHOUSE VIDEO

Click the screen in front of you and it will turn blue. The video will begin to play. Long videos may be slow to appear.



Click the screen

Make sure that the video button is on. You can find it at the bottom of your screen.



Home Profile Find People

twitter

arriveuk

Following

Do you have questions about academic study?  
<http://www.prepareforsucces...>

8 months ago from web

What is independent study? <http://bit.ly/19eG1W1>

8 months ago from web

Find out about different ways of being taught at university  
<http://bit.ly/19Ld1p>

11 months ago from web

Learning in the UK: how will it be different for international students?

11 months ago from web

Name Ar  
Locatio  
7  
Tweets  
Actions  
arrive  
arriveuk  
Following  
[User Avatars]



# Project successes

- Model for integration of new technologies within an online course
- Development of an open source Twitter plug-in for Moodle
- Adaptation and enhancement of course learning resources (Learning Objects and vidcasts) for use in SL and with Twitter

# Project challenges

- Web 2.0 services unreliable and subject to change/frequent updating
- New technologies lack of accommodation to needs of non native speakers (Eng)
- Steep learning curve required for SL
- Lack of time on part of participants
- Participant support and communication issues at distance

# What next?

- Trial M3 outputs with other student groups in blended learning contexts
- Explore different ways of using the Twitter plug-in within online courses
- Create an in-world resource centre with a range of language learning resources adapted for SL
- Explore ways of using our Language Café environment for informal language learning

# Thank you

[J.Watson@soton.ac.uk](mailto:J.Watson@soton.ac.uk)

[www.elanguages.ac.uk](http://www.elanguages.ac.uk)

Second Life: University of Southampton region

M3 project:

<http://www.elanguages.ac.uk/secondlife/index.html>