

University of Bristol provide its students and teachers with smart, collaborative teaching tools.

University of Bristol, ranked within the top 50 universities in the world is home to 23,000 students and staff. Priding themselves on being a pioneering place to work and study, the University wanted to explore a new way for their teachers and students to communicate.



The Challenge

Senior staff at the University of Bristol had been looking for new strategies to improve the teaching capabilities of the University, in order to attract more students.

They were looking at the possibility of utilising remote teaching advancements, to help students on the new medical undergraduate programme. With the ability to keep every student on the programme connected to their scientific teaching during their time in hospitals, they could be in the field sooner. This would also give them the opportunity to learn new clinical skills first hand and not miss out on a valuable experience by being sat in a classroom at the University.

Through this research, the staff at the University of Bristol also discovered that they could introduce a system that would allow administrators and academic staff from surrounding and further afield NHS sites to remotely join meetings at the University. This saved clinical staff from travelling for hours to attend a single meeting.

One of the key objectives was to have the ability to hold remote meetings between University buildings and with other institutions.



Quick Overview

The University of Bristol was looking for a solution to offer remote meetings to their Professional Services staff and remote teaching for medical students. Based on previous work with Insight, the University approached them to support the project.

Insight introduced Microsoft Surface Hubs for the medical departments and Professional Services to improve collaboration and a better quality teaching experience for students.

"I've worked with Insight for many years and always been very happy with their service...the fact that you can talk to people whenever for support and advice made a big difference as opposed to normal suppliers."

Martin Van Eker, Clinical Academies ICT & Network Manager
at the University of Bristol



The Solution

Insight were awarded with the contract and introduced the Microsoft Surface Hub and its related services to fulfil the University's ambition. They were ordered in three batches and took just four days to implement and install, positively impacting the University – a benefit that's still developing.

There are currently 10 Microsoft Surface Hubs installed for the 120 clinical staff and 750 medical students to learn in a collaborative way in NHS teaching hospitals.

The Surface Hub solution allows medical lecturers to teach students with remote digital teaching and follow the new medical undergraduate programme. Before, to continue their scientific education students would need to return to the University for central teaching. Students are now able to learn new skills on the job and remain connected to their University education.

The hub solution creates a whole new level of collaboration and knowledge sharing, with the ability to work on multiple platforms using just one screen. Medical students can become active participants in the learning process.

Whiteboard sharing features allow students to add detail to conversations and interact in real-time. Insight has also introduced Office 365 and Skype for Business as a video conferencing tool for remote meetings. All the software has total compatibility and is quick to set up. Insight delivered training upon installation and are always available to support or advise the University's IT team.

Plans are in progress to future-proof the system, including using SharePoint to transfer educational and vital information between the University and their colleagues in the NHS.



The Benefits

Around 20 more Microsoft Surface Hubs have been installed since, to share with the University's Professional Services team, as they have been recognised as an essential component in building more agile and smarter working practises.

Microsoft Surface Hubs are transforming the teaching industry. Medical students can now continue their studies flexibly and gain hands-on hospital experience. Clinical specialists are also able to save travel time by teaching remotely.

Other universities such as Plymouth and Bath Spa are now purchasing Microsoft Surface Hubs through Insight after seeing the University of Bristol's pioneering approach to teaching.

"With excellent pre and post-sales support from Insight we've embarked on adopting Hubs in a number of new offices used by Professional Services as they can be key to new, collaborative, flexible ways of working.

We're also seeing interest from academics colleagues to support collaborative research and teaching."

Pete Walker, Head of Support at the University of Bristol

The Results Highlights



Both Plymouth and Bath Universities have seen the Microsoft Surface Hubs in action and are now purchasing them through Insight.



Medical students are able to work in hospitals and gain quality teaching without travelling back and forth or missing lectures.



Skype for Business, Office 365 and remote teaching enables clinical experts to save time and work collaboratively with medical students.



With the Microsoft Surface Hub, students and teachers can easily collaborate by working on multiple platforms using just one screen.

Manage today. Transform for tomorrow.

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