



LEARNIUM CASE STUDY

Bringing Biosciences to Life with Learnium

Using a Social Learning Network at
Cardiff University

The School of Biosciences at Cardiff University is a large department with over 100 academic staff, 160 postgraduates and over 2000 undergraduates. It offers 8 taught and research courses. The school relied heavily on the university-provided VLE, which students found too teacher-focused. Learnium provides the students with a dedicated space to communicate online in a student-friendly way. The result has been hundreds of shared resources, the curation of revision materials and greater academic engagement.

CHALLENGES

Sheila Amici-Dargan is a Senior Lecturer of Neuroscience and Physiology in the School of Biosciences at Cardiff University. Teaching both lectures and seminars, she would put her slides and handouts on the university's VLE. Some students would download the materials, others wouldn't even do that.

This approach wasn't enough for Sheila. She wanted her students to be active in their learning by engaging with the learning materials and with each other.

To this end, she spent a year finding and testing online learning platforms which would let her students do exactly that.

After trialling numerous platforms, including Facebook and Blackboard CourseSites, Sheila's students overwhelmingly identified Learnium as the Online Learning Platform of their choice.

SOLUTION

There were three key reasons why the students chose Learnium:

1. It is the happy medium between private social networks and professional networks. Professional and personal online profiles can remain separate without the need for staff and students to connect on social media like Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.
2. Built like any other social network, it is easy and intuitive to use. It's easy to set up and start using. Ubiquitous social media features, such as mentions, posts and chat, work on Learnium very much in the way same way as on other popular social networks.
3. Using Learnium means greater engagement. As soon as the students started using Learnium, they engaged with each other and the learning material more.

700+

Posts

400+

Likes

100+

Resources

Thanks to Learnium, the students in the School of Biosciences of Cardiff University are now more engaged in their learning: discussing learning materials and even curating their own revision materials. Learnium has given the students a dedicated online space to take control of their own learning.

Sheila Amici-Dargan

*Senior Lecturer
Neuroscience
Cardiff University*

“Learnium lets me and the other teaching staff on the course create an environment which fosters collaboration among the students. We want them to be working together and supporting each other, which Learnium lets them do in a way they are already used to.”

Harry Davies

*1st year undergraduate
Biosciences
Cardiff University*

“I think that Learnium is a great and easy to use platform for collaborative learning and is a great tool to allow students to share sources that would not have been found during individual revision. I think it has great potential and I know a lot of my friends feel the same way!”



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