

A communications portal for language learners

This exemplar is relevant to Digital Student challenge:

Deliver a robust, flexible digital environment

The University of Warwick Language Centre - part of a new School of Modern Languages and Cultures - provides an institution-wide language programme for around 4000 students. After several years of piloting and development it now has its own [Languages@Warwick portal](#) specifically to meet the needs of language learners. The site framework is moodle 2 complemented with Blackboard Collaborate tools for online spoken interactions, both synchronous and asynchronous. Mahara e-portfolio software provides greater opportunity for social learning, reflection and feedback, and a shared Googledocs platform allows for instant sharing, amending and commenting on text. Since 2012 the site has also integrated Kaltura as a streaming media system, offering embedded video (including satellite-collected international video), and the capacity to create, manage and re-use video resources as learning assets.

An ongoing partnership with the Université Blaise-Pascale in Clermont Ferrand, France, has this year involved 900 students in both countries, sharing digital artefacts and co-creating stories. International students can meet others in a safe, supportive English-speaking context before arriving at Warwick to study, and Warwick's students on placement abroad can maintain contact with those on campus. Students can evidence their linguistic skills alongside their developing digital confidence, adding to their employability on graduation.

How does this meet the challenge?

- Languages@Warwick has been extensively piloted with over 300 students and is continually reviewed to ensure it is meeting their needs.
- The Centre is a portal through which other languages, cultures and nationalities connect with the life of the University, to the benefit of all.
- Students learn from each other and student-created assets make up much of the Centre's learning resource.
- The Centre is meeting the needs of specialised language students but making the same environment open to all students interested in developing their linguistic skills and intercultural competence.
- The technical environment is specialised to language learning but seamlessly put together from generic components.

Find out more

- [Languages@Warwick portal](#)
- [Slides: Breaking out of the Walled Garden](#)
- [Case Study from Jisc Digital Media](#)
- [Presentation by Language Centre tutors](#)
- [LLAS Tenth Anniversary e-book](#)

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