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INTUITION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Case Study

BAHRAIN POLYTECHNIC

USE OF INTUITION KNOW-HOW ONLINE TRAINING LIBRARY

BACKGROUND

Established by royal decree in 2008, Bahrain Polytechnic is part of the Kingdom's strategic initiatives to tackle the skills gap that exists in the current workforce. To address this issue, Bahrain Polytechnic runs professional higher education programs and courses designed to equip its graduates with the technical and transferrable employability skills required by employers in Bahrain and the wider MENA region. In this regard, Bahrain Polytechnic channels the needs of local industries into the design, development, and delivery of its strategic learner-centred courses. The provision of technology-enabled courses offers increased access to education by providing students with more choices in terms of classroom timetables, study locations, and pace of learning.

REQUIREMENT: SKILLED BANKING AND FINANCE GRADUATES

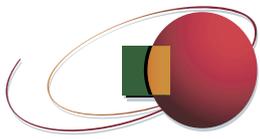
There is a pressing demand in Bahrain to expand the current pool of skilled finance graduates, as the country's Banking and Finance sector grew by 7% in 2011 and remains a cornerstone of the domestic economy. In the wider Gulf Cooperative Council (GCC) region, banks are facing a serious shortage of highly skilled graduates. An Accenture survey cited 69% of executives from major GCC banks who identified skills shortages as a key issue. Also, 89% of executives indicated that attracting and retaining talented graduates will be the most important strategy for increasing shareholder value.



SOLUTION: BANKING AND FINANCE DEGREE – A BLENDED APPROACH

In 2011, Bahrain Polytechnic embarked on an initiative to leverage Intuition's comprehensive Know-How financial elearning library as a means to integrate additional financial tutorial content into their Bachelor of Business (Banking & Finance) Degree program. Intuition was chosen as elearning partner of Bahrain Polytechnic to develop graduates for its growing Islamic and conventional banking sectors.

Using Intuition's Learning Management System (LMS) to manage and assign students, the comprehensive coverage of the Know-How financial tutorials enables Bahrain Polytechnic to design custom courses covering the entire four-year undergraduate program.



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In Bahrain Polytechnic's Bachelor of Business program, each student is assigned two hours of elearning per week for selected Banking & Finance courses, which can be undertaken on or off campus, and which is marked as meeting the college's attendance criteria. This study prepares the students for practical problem-based tutorials and workshops on campus, maximizing their contact time with academic staff. Each student is expected to fully complete the online tutorials and achieve a 70% pass rate or higher in the final assessment. Bahrain Polytechnic also utilizes Awareness courses to prepare students for the cultural differences inherent in dealing with international banks.

Lecturers use Intuition's Create Express authoring tool to create end-of-semester assessments that cover both elearning content and classroom-based lectures and tutorials, which are then hosted on the LMS. Assessments can be proctored and typically take place in computer-equipped classrooms.

BENEFITS OF USING THE INTUITION KNOW-HOW LIBRARY IN BAHRAIN POLYTECHNIC

- Bahrain Polytechnic students have access to a comprehensive library of industry-standard financial tutorials. Developing a highly skilled workforce will assist the rapid development and implementation of a regulated Bahraini economy to address the business needs of international banks and investors.
- Know-How tutorials are constantly updated by Bahrain Polytechnic with new global financial legislation and work practices (for example the Dodd Frank Act). This reduces the need for Bahrain to attract experienced international financial professionals.
- The flexibility of Intuition's LMS facilitates assessment of both the delivery of traditional content and the Polytechnic's unique problem-based learning approach facilitated by lecturers in tandem with the online tutorials. This complements Bahrain Polytechnic's philosophy of innovative course delivery.
- The LMS allows Bahrain Polytechnic students to study when and where they choose in accordance with academic requirements as all students' online learning activities are monitored and recorded.
- Students can use the LMS to remotely access specialist knowledge areas in more detail outside the normal academic schedule and environment. Shifting responsibility to self-study using Intuition's elearning platform frees up valuable teaching resources to focus on maximising the contact time with students, which is based on practical problem-based learning in the classroom.

ABOUT INTUITION

Intuition is a global leader in the provision of knowledge solutions. For over 25 years, Intuition has deployed enterprise solutions across global corporate and public sector organizations. Our solutions help clients to optimize knowledge within their organizations.

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