

Success with Touchstone

Laureate International Universities is an international university network offering degree programs to more than 675,000 students worldwide. The Laureate English Program (LEP), based on Touchstone Blended Learning, was founded with the aim of providing students with a minimum level of English by the time they graduate from a Laureate institution.

Laureate International Universities has a stated objective through the (LEP) to provide all students with an opportunity to reach an intermediate level of English language proficiency while attending a Laureate institution. The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) identifies this sufficient level as B1. The challenge for Laureate was to develop even beginner students' English language competency to an intermediate level with limited face-to-face study hours.

Results

The impact of using a Blended Learning Program like Touchstone is well proven. Research was carried out at a number of Laureate universities in Europe, Asia and South America to investigate the impact of implementing Touchstone. Classes were benchmarked in 2010 and 2012 after implementing Blended Learning in 2011. There was a marked progression with a shift up the CEFR scale to the intermediate (CEFR B1) and upper-intermediate (CEFR B2) levels, and fewer at beginner levels (CEFR A1/A2).

These results illustrate that by providing increased opportunities for use of English outside of the classroom and making more effective use of classroom time (i.e. focus on production skills), blended work can be more effective. includes hundreds of hours of highly interactive materials, including audio and video as well as communicative tools to encourage additional interaction. The ground breaking Touchstone Blended Learning Program is the first course of its kind, truly integrating both classroom and online content.



Touchstone benchmarking studies show student progress to higher CEFR levels

