

Success with Touchstone

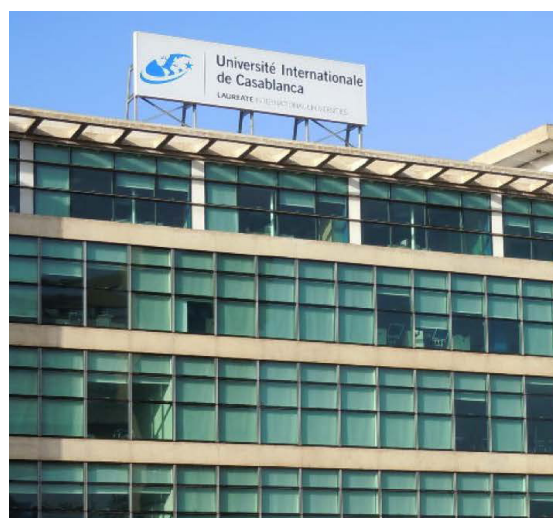
Laureate International Universities is an international university network offering degree programs to more than 675,000 students worldwide. The Laureate English Program (LEP), based on Touchstone Blended Learning, was founded with the aim of providing students with a minimum level of English by the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

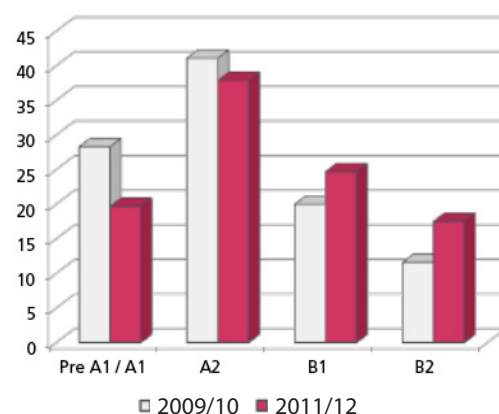
Results

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



Université Internationale de Casablanca, Morocco

Université Internationale de Casablanca (UIC) was founded in 2010 and is one of the first accredited private institutions in Morocco. The university is composed of three schools: Business and Management, Health Sciences and Engineering.

Teaching Touchstone

As a part of the LEP, UIC has implemented Touchstone into its English courses. Touchstone has allowed the university to not only have a solid curriculum that students enjoy in class, but also the ability to teach more in less time. Teachers use the Touchstone Learning Management System (LMS) to track, monitor and communicate with students to help them progress independently.

Beyond the books, the university is constantly fine-tuning the way their students interact with the course. Every year their teaching staff re-evaluates their curriculum and decides how best to combine the print and digital course components for face-to-face contact time and independent learning. Teachers continue to experiment with Touchstone and each year they learn more about how to leverage course components.

The online content can be used in many different ways: some lessons will suit face-to-face class time; some will suit independent learning in the LMS. The flexibility of Touchstone Blended Learning gives universities like UIC the ability to finetune and optimise their teaching approach according to their students and number of contact hours.

“Touchstone has made learning English very easy, both in class and independently. With enough practice, I could easily learn how to have conversations based on real-life language.”

Loubna Daoudi (Student)

“I’ve enjoyed teaching with Touchstone and find the teacher’s book user-friendly and clear. Students enjoy the unit topics and find the vocabulary and grammar relevant and interesting, and the LMS workbook exercises reinforce the lessons.”

Jenny Hall (Teacher)

