Sorbonne Abu Dhabi Becomes the First University in the United Arab Emirates to Transition to Blackboard Learn SaaS

Teachers and students to reap benefits of increased efficiency and mobility through moving to the cloud

DUBAI, 16 September 2019 — Blackboard Inc., a leading education technology company for teaching, learning and student engagement, today announced that Sorbonne Abu Dhabi, established in association with Sorbonne University in Paris and specialising in arts, law, humanities, business and science degrees, has become the first university in the UAE to transition its virtual learning environment to the Software as a Service (SaaS) delivery model of Blackboard Learn. The transition to the cloud will allow over 800 students and 100 educators to experience anywhere-anytime learning with zero downtime updates. The institution will leverage Blackboard Learn SaaS to enhance its digital infrastructure.

“Moving to a cloud-based delivery model is an important first step for us,” said Hamdan Alkalbani, Head of the Digital Transformation & Innovation Department at Sorbonne Abu Dhabi. “It sets in motion our strategic plan to become the first fully digital campus in the UAE, and zero downtime is critical to achieving this objective. Our students can now benefit from improved stability as well as experience increased mobility and interactive learning.”

Sorbonne Abu Dhabi will further leverage the SaaS deployment to introduce blended learning, scale up its online courses, and better evaluate its students, educators and programmes. Learn SaaS will also be instrumental to the university’s plans to set up a mobile application for its users with a 360-degree view and single sign-on. This will be one of many steps in the university’s shift to a cloud-based infrastructure over the next two years.

“We want to better align our programmes to global trends and market needs,” said Majed Al Khemeiri, Acting Deputy Executive Director for Administrative Affairs at Sorbonne University. “We want to support continuous, interactive learning opportunities and want to boost digital learning. Our aim is to lead by example and a cloud-based structure is central to our strategy for the future. We are extremely pleased that Blackboard is supporting us on our journey to digitisation.”

“We look forward to working closely with Sorbonne Abu Dhabi as they fully embrace the advantages of a cloud-based approach to teaching and learning and leverage the benefits of Learn SaaS,” said Robert Speed, Vice President for the Middle East and Africa at Blackboard. “Our goal is to support institutions as they build dynamic growth strategies and drive student success. We are pleased to partner with Sorbonne Abu Dhabi as it transforms its learning environment and are proud they have chosen us as their partner in achieving their institutional goals.”

About Blackboard

Our mission is to partner with the global education community to enable learner and institutional success, leveraging innovative technologies and services. With an unmatched understanding of the world of the learner, the most comprehensive student-success solutions, and the greatest capacity for innovation, Blackboard is education’s partner in change.

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