

## Unife Strengthens its Online Offering With Blackboard Collaborate

**The online collaborative learning solution increases engagement of distance learning students**

FERRARA, 25 March 2019 – [Blackboard](#) today announced that the University of Ferrara (Unife) implemented Blackboard Collaborate to enhance its online teaching and learning offering. Through Blackboard Collaborate, Unife is providing up to 13 virtual classrooms every day, for a total of 70 hours of online lessons.

The University of Ferrara has embarked on a path of strong growth and over the last two years has doubled the number of enrolments, with more than 20,000 new admissions each year. Additionally, thanks to the institution's advanced academic offering, some courses have experienced an even bigger rate of growth, such as Biotechnology, which soared from 100 to more than 2,000 students. With this significant increase in the number of students, the need to implement a virtual classroom solution that could enable students to attend lessons and some laboratories remotely, rather than face-to-face, became pressing.

Blackboard Collaborate is a web-based conferencing solution that offers a superior online teaching and learning experience through virtual classrooms. Blackboard Collaborate further supports the overall online learning experience and enables teachers to run courses synchronously, thanks also to a vast array of features, including chat, digital whiteboard, HD video and audio, and desktop and application sharing.

"I am pleased about this collaboration with one of the most important companies in the education technology industry," said Prof. Livio Zerbini, Director of Se@, the University's centre for communication technologies, innovation and distance education, and Delegate for student support and services. "This partnership between a cutting-edge structure like Se@ and a leading international company like Blackboard will bring excellent results. For us, it also means reinforcing our commitment to our students."

"We are thrilled to support the University of Ferrara in this new phase of its growth," said Oleg Figlin, Vice President Europe at Blackboard. "Nowadays, an ever growing number of students need to follow lessons remotely and Unife certainly places itself at the forefront of distance learning, offering its learners the opportunity to attend virtual classrooms. The rapid growth that the University experienced in recent years further testifies to the success of their approach and to the value of their educational offering."

### **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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