

A SANAKO Lab 300 solution was the obvious choice for the International and Language Studies Department at Sheffield Hallam University, when it was time to renew the University's language teaching investment.

SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY

- Located in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, UK
- The fifth largest University in the UK
- 24,000 students are based on three campuses
- Languages taught: French, Spanish, Italian, Japanese

A SUCCESSFUL SOLUTION

- 2 x SANAKO Lab 300 (ICM/Divace Duo)
- 2 x 20 student positions
- 2 teacher consoles, one in each room

The Only Way Forward

When it comes to the crunch, success is very important. And the success that one of SANAKO's Tandberg Educational branded language labs has had at Sheffield Hallam University, certainly paid rich dividends when the search was on for a new system.

The University had experience of a lab from a rival company but when it came to another change in equipment there was only one way forward as far as Head of International and Language Studies Fiona Drew was concerned – a Tandberg Educational branded lab from Sanako.

And the reasons? Ms Drew said: "The pre-sales experience, the support and the explanation about the labs and how they could be used were all first class from Sanako, better than those of the competition. And I felt much more confident about buying a Sanako lab this time around."

Catering for a Range of Abilities

Now the former polytechnic has two state-of-the-art, 20-position digital labs in place, operating up to 10 hours a day, Monday to Friday, helping students with French, German, Spanish, Italian and Japanese. And the students come with a range of abilities, from absolute zero knowledge of their chosen language to 'A' level grade.



Students enjoy practising their language skills with SANAKO Lab 300.



SANAKO Lab 300 can accommodate a broad range of abilities - from beginner to advanced.



INCLUDES ALL THE FEATURES NEEDED

- Ideal for all learners - beginners to advanced
- Allows access to a wide range of media
- Allows students to create their own materials
- Is very user friendly
- All the traditional lab features and a whole lot more
- Motivates both students and staff

Sheffield Hallam is a university with 10 academic schools, each of them sending students for language provision of one sort or another. "Language is very much at the core of the university," said Ms Drew. "We have students on an institution-wide language programme and a considerable number doing a language as a part of their degree programme. And on another level we have the complete beginners, mature students and part-timers as well as people from the business community."

Good Enough to Show Off

The 17-lecturer languages group has been highly impressed with the Sanako equipment. "It allows students access to a whole range of media in the classroom to which previously there was no access," said Ms Drew. "But there is still a great deal of development we have to undertake to fully exploit the labs. We may need to have a rethink in regard to the way we deliver our teaching. In some cases students are more technologically advanced than the staff. They can perhaps see the potential that we as academics can't see."

At present Ms Drew estimates that the power of the Sanako equipment is being used at no more than 40 per cent of capacity. "There is a phenomenal amount you can do with it," she said. "It is great fun. And the service we have had from Sanako has been really very good indeed. I would have no hesitation in recommending the company to anybody thinking of going down the digital language lab route."

The University is so pleased with the labs that in May 2003 a group of experts was invited to visit the University in order to get to grips with the university's two labs. Sheffield Hallam hosted a workshop of the Standing Conference of Heads of Modern Languages, with representatives of around 30 similar institutions taking a look at the system. "It was something of a show and tell session where we showed them what we have done and learnt – as well as how successful it has been," said Ms Drew.



Students can work with a wide range of media using SANAKO Lab 300.

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