

Digital education for teachers of the future

Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona/Spain



400 education students at Universitat Rovira i Virgili have been educated in the use of SMART Board® interactive whiteboard since they began their studies

The Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV) de Tarragona are using SMART education solutions to effectively train the next generation of teachers and facilitate their research on technology in education. The school has implemented SMART Board® interactive whiteboards and SMART Notebook™ collaborative learning software in the Faculty of Education classrooms. The Faculty of Education offers degrees in pedagogy, social education and K–12 education. With SMART solutions, students get a sound foundation in using interactive tools and learn how to make the most of them. The implementation has enabled the postgraduate students to create new research groups and thesis topics that explore how to optimize the use of interactive technology in the teaching process.

URV is a public university with more than 15,000 undergraduate students, around 3,000 postgraduates and 1,000 teachers. “We have designed the subjects in ways that integrate technology. We do not teach technology as a subject, instead technology is included in every subject area in our degree programs,” says Luis Marqués, a teacher in the Faculty of Education and Psychology at Universitat Rovira i Virgili.

The Faculty of Education has 400 students, and when they begin their studies they learn about all of the technology tools and find out how to use them. Students gain insight into the use of interactive whiteboards during their first year at the university. They can also choose a 30-hour training course in which they create resources for classrooms that are fully-equipped with interactive technology. The completed lessons and resources are used in schools that have collaboration agreements with the URV.

Challenge

Seek a digital tool that allows the undergraduate students to make their own digital materials. The university also wanted to train future teachers in the use of new technologies.

Solution

Universitat Rovira i Virgili equipped most of their classrooms with SMART Board® interactive whiteboards and SMART Notebook™ collaborative learning software.

Result

Students are learning how to make the most of classroom technology and are creating resources and lessons for K–12 classrooms. The use of SMART solutions has led to the creation of new research groups and thesis topics that focus on the use of SMART products in education.

"We teach our students to use SMART Notebook software and the SMART Board interactive whiteboard. They create resources and materials for use in K-12 schools and they post the resources on SMART Exchange for teachers and students to use," explains Marqués. As students work with interactive whiteboards and SMART Notebook software, they are learning how to get the most from classroom technology and gaining insight into their future careers. They have the opportunity to put into practice the theory that they learn in class and find out how to apply it to real scenarios in K-12 schools. Both teachers and students make training on SMART products a priority and some students have even chosen to become SMART certified trainers. The school has received support from SMART that has helped them with training materials for classrooms and research on the use of technology in education.

"Our relationship with SMART has given us additional insight. We have researched how to create content for the interactive whiteboard and we will continue to create new interactive lessons that encourage integration, participation and the strengths of each student's personality," says Marqués.

The Faculty of Education has equipped four classrooms, a videoconferencing room and a students' room with SMART Board interactive whiteboards. "We plan to double the technology equipment in our classrooms over the next two school years," says Marqués. The interactive whiteboard in the students' room can be used by anybody, giving students the opportunity to work with it at any time.

For more than 10 years, URV has been committed to improving the use of technology tools and devices in their schools. In the Master of Arts program, they offer an eLearning and knowledge management degree that focuses on the application and use of new technologies in education. Students can continue research in this field and go on to earn a doctorate degree in educational technology.

In the Master of Arts program, the school has a collaboration agreement with SMART that enables them to offer a new field of research called The SMART Project, offered through the Applied Research Group in Education and Technology program. "The goal of the program is to raise awareness about - and improve - the quality and use of interactive technology in education. We also want to use interactive technology in ways that improve the development of social and productivity skills," says Ramón Palau, a teacher in the Department of Pedagogy at Universidad Rovira i Virgili.

Teachers at URV find that with SMART products, learning environments can be enhanced to provide resources, activities and interactive lessons that engage students and are tailored to the learning needs of each individual.



Luis Marqués, Teacher in the Faculty of Education and Psychology at University Rovira and Virgili.

"We teach our students to use SMART Notebook software and the SMART Board interactive whiteboard and they create resources and materials for use in K-12 schools. They post the resources on SMART Exchange for teachers and students to use"

Luis Marqués, Teacher in the Faculty of Education and Psychology at University Rovira and Virgili.

About SMART

SMART Technologies Inc. is a leading provider of collaboration solutions that change the way the world works and learns. As the global leader in interactive whiteboards, our focus is on developing a variety of easy-to-use, integrated solutions that free people from their desks and computer screens, making collaboration and learning with digital resources more natural. Our products have transformed teaching and learning in more than two million classrooms worldwide, reaching over 40 million students and their teachers. In business, our Freestorm™ visual collaboration solutions improve the way that people work and collaborate, enabling them to be more productive and reduce costs.

SMART Technologies

Toll Free 1.888.42.SMART (U.S./Canada)
or +1.403.228.5940
smarttech.com