

Creation of a virtual language-lab capability

Context and challenge

The University of Leeds has an international reputation for excellence in teaching and research and is part of the prestigious Russell Group of research-intensive universities. The University of Leeds is also a partner university of the Directorate-Generale for Interpretation and enjoys close ties with international organisations including the UN.

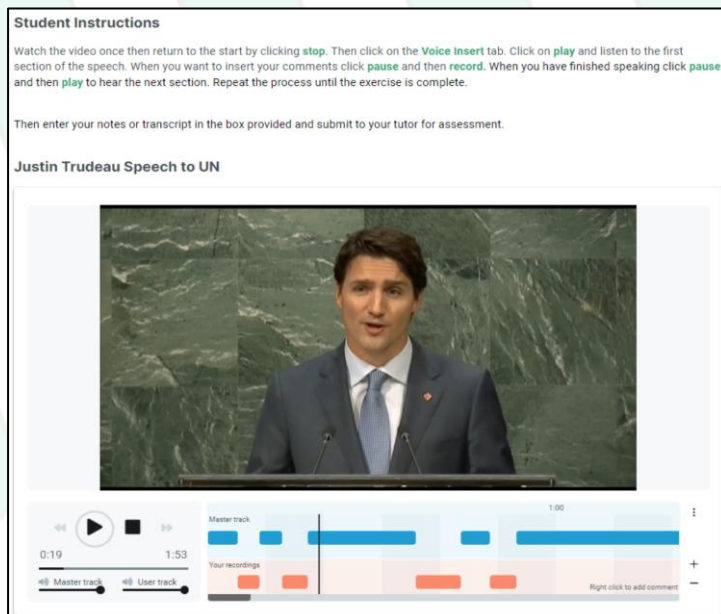
During the COVID-19 lockdown, colleagues across the university had been working to secure solutions which enabled the continuation of study and assessment. One of the most effective solutions adopted for teaching and assessment by the Centre for Translation Studies, University of Leeds, has been Sanako Connect. Totally on-line and compatible with most devices, only internet access is required by this Blended Learning Interpreting system

What was delivered

The Sanako Study 1200 interpreting system had been in use at the university for several years. To enable the creation of a virtual language-lab, Sanako Connect was simply introduced as an additional module. With Connect, the tutors were able to create a virtual class, but which essentially works in the same way as a conventional interpreting lab.

To begin virtual class, a QR code is posted in MS Teams and when students click the link, the exercises are automatically downloaded onto their device and an icon for each student (including the student's name) appears on the tutor's screen, at which point the tutor can start the class or the assessment.

The system is fully compliant with GDPR regulations.



Screen shot of typical translation exercise

The benefits

With Sanako Connect, the tutors are able to do pretty much everything that can be done with a conventional interpreting lab; monitor what each student is doing, talk to all the students or an individual student and even allow everyone to discuss the exercises together. The exercises specific to the activity are easily inserted in the platform by the tutor. The tutors can choose whether it is for consecutive or simultaneous interpreting with audio or video exercises.

During the online teaching or assessment of interpreting modules, tutors are able to monitor individual students while they are carrying out the exercise and, when completed, their recordings are submitted to the tutor. In simultaneous exercises the recordings are dual-track, allowing the student and original speech to be recorded on separate channels.

“ Everyone at Sanako UK has been very professional and helpful in guiding us through the application of Sanako Connect, answering the questions raised by the tutors and students and coordinating to enhance some configurations to meet our specific needs. ”

Lihong Pan

Programme Manager of MA Interpreting