

Fully integrated, local & online Conference Interpreting Technology**Context and challenge**

The University boasts a rich history and today still delivers cutting-edge teaching and research to students from all over the world. Our School of Humanities offers courses in a wide range of disciplines including translation and interpreting, modern languages and linguistics. The Masters Course in Translation and Interpreting, open to native and non-native speakers of English, combines English with Chinese, French, German, Italian, Polish or Spanish.

What was delivered

In 2021, in the shadow of the Coronavirus pandemic, the University took an inspired decision and updated its technology offering for students. Now the School of Humanities boasts several state-of-the-art Sanako language labs and the latest conference interpreter training facilities. These flexible and technologically advanced Sanako systems, based around the extremely popular Sanako Study 1200 and Sanako Connect Online, enable students to practise in a real life conference interpreting environment.

**Benefits**

Teaching quality is greatly enhanced with the added features, which can be used in the additional dedicated language space, as well as remotely to enable students to practice from virtually anywhere. This technology allows the department to make conference interpreting practice a feature of our virtual learning environment. The software can also be used for role-play practice for public service interpreting. The intuitive user interface for both the tutor and the student allows lecturers to set instant exercises for students working in groups or independently, and to record and save their work for assessment and feedback.

**Impact****The facilities consist of:**

- ✓ a software only conference interpreting facility which can be used campus wide
- ✓ an online facility for simultaneous and consecutive interpreting
- ✓ two large professional interpreting suites, each fitted with soundproof booths

This enables:

- ✓ students to practise their skills using video and audio feeds; and
- ✓ interpreters to access these exercises, which they can upload directly into the system once completed.



The combination of hardware, software and online technology really offers a fully blended learning solutions which meets our current needs and any future requirements which may arise. This is a tremendously valuable tool to track the students' progress, but also to provide a secure method of assessment, either on site or online. Additionally, if working online, the students have the ability to work in either synchronous or asynchronous mode making it extremely flexible for the busy tutor and student.

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