



Queen's
UNIVERSITY

What Queen's University achieved with Elluminate Live! Academic Edition™

The same content and interaction as a traditional classroom

Elluminate Live! enables Queen's University to mirror the interactivity of campus-based courses and provide opportunities for teaching, learning, and collaboration—at a distance.

Ability to easily add synchronous content to asynchronous distance learning

By using Elluminate Live! in a blended environment with WebCT, students can experience the best of both worlds—and create a real sense of community.

Superior user experience that enhances learning and facilitates communication

Elluminate's live eLearning environment is easy to learn and easy to use for both students and faculty—wherever they are located.

Queen's University Faculty of Education Facilitates Communication, Collaboration, and Exploration with Elluminate Live!®

As one of Canada's leading universities, Queen's University has an international reputation for scholarship, research, social purpose, spirit, and diversity. The university is also known for its high quality and incomparable 24-hour learning environment. Established in 1841, Queen's has a current enrollment of more than 20,000 students, an academic staff of over 2,000 full-time faculty, and additional staff of about 2,500 that includes teachers and researchers. The university's alumni number totals almost 130,000 in 158 countries.

The Challenge: Provide Reliable Online Alternative for Traditional Classroom Course

"The constructivist view of learning sees knowledge not as a body of information and facts to be absorbed, but rather as understanding that is actively constructed by individuals and groups," said Geoffrey Roulet, Faculty of Education at Queen's University. "This holds implications for how we might employ information and communication technology within education." With this in mind, Roulet set out to find a collaborative online environment that could provide opportunities for student exploration and expression.

"The things Elluminate does over distance are things I have dreamed about doing for quite a long time," Roulet explained. "A good deal of my research and teaching involves collaborative learning. I had a research project where I was looking at increasing collaboration among groups using software called The Geometer's Sketchpad®. What I needed was a networking solution that enabled participants to project their ideas in Sketchpad to everyone else's screens and share the live application so others could respond to ideas and even manipulate objects they were displaying. This was exactly what Elluminate Live!® allowed."

The Solution: Easy-to-use Technology for Teaching and Learning that Extends the Traditional Classroom

"I tried another solution that required a level of technical sophistication beyond the knowledge of some students," said Roulet. "Elluminate's operation at the basic level was simple enough that I felt comfortable just announcing to my class that this was what we were using. All I had to do was to take 15 minutes in the beginning of the class to walk them through it, and we were at a level where students could actually interact without spending hours addressing technical issues."

"I'm a heavy user of WebCT as an adjunct to my classroom-based courses and for a number of graduate level courses that I offer online," Roulet continued. "Queen's University does not have a big distance education program in general. However, there are instructors, like me, who have mounted at least parts of their courses online using WebCT and Elluminate Live! We also used Elluminate Live! for an international conference about using dynamic geometry for teaching and learning that included about 30 participants from Hong Kong to Turkey."



What makes Elluminate Live! the clear choice for live eLearning?

- Crystal-clear audio with voice over the Internet
- User-friendly, intuitive interface that's easy to use and customize
- In-sync communications, regardless of connection speed and quality
- Universal operation in Windows, Mac, Solaris and Linux environments
- ESP (Elluminate Sensory Perception) Moderator Tool Set ensures best user experience
- Greatly reduced travel budgets
- No more costly, inconvenient conference calls
- Best-in-class return on investment, with no per-minute charges
- Accessible, responsive customer service

According to Roulet, a significant portion of students enrolled in Queen's M.Ed. program are full-time classroom teachers who live at considerable distances from the campus. "In response to this need, I began conducting my curriculum theory course online using WebCT," he explained. "While this enabled us to maintain the seminar approach of the classroom-based course, the collaborative development of concept maps required by the course was more difficult. With Elluminate, students can display their concept maps, outline their thinking, and manipulate the map in response to others' comments, all in real time."

The Result: Evolution from Networking Solution to Online Education and Collaboration Environment

"This fall, we will be using Elluminate Live! for interacting with teacher candidates while they are out in schools practice teaching," said Roulet. "At Queen's, we have extended practicums, with absences of four to five weeks at a time, resulting in greatly reduced contact between faculty and candidates as well as between the candidates themselves. Elluminate Live! enables us to continue conversations we had during class. It's an opportunity for the candidates to gather online once a week to discuss experiences and share materials they've developed and software they've used."

"When faculty members attached to certain disciplines are on sabbatical, we don't have replacements," Roulet added. "That means we have to hire a retired teacher or a teacher practicing at another institution to fill in. This year, we've hired a computer science instructor who teaches in Toronto, so even though all students are present geographically, the instructor is not. To accommodate the geography, we can move the course online with WebCT and Elluminate Live!"

"While we began using Elluminate Live! as a networking solution, it has grown to be a distance education and online collaboration application that we've used to solve other issues that we have," concluded Roulet. "The Elluminate experience creates a strong bond between classmates, strengthening the community in ways that spill over into the asynchronous learning environment. Actually, the lag time built in to asynchronous learning is an advantage, allowing students to read and think carefully before responding. Then with Elluminate Live! the community can come back together to interact."

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