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LMS365 streamlines the
blended learning program at
Teach First Germany



Challenge

Supporting Fellows through challenging educational placements

Teach First Germany is a non-profit initiative that drives equal opportunities in education by organizing placements for graduates (known as 'Fellows') into schools across Germany. Fellows undergo an intensive blended learning program to prepare them for this inspiring work.

Teach First Germany was seeking a new learning platform that not only better supported the Fellows by providing more structure to resources, but also streamlined the administration of the program, making it more efficient.



LMS365 has brought structure to our blended learning program and streamlined the administration. It's made life so much easier for our Fellows who can access all they need in one place. LMS365 has also saved vast amounts of time for the learning team.

Michael Raible, Senior Expert & Program Manager

Solution

Teach First Germany was looking for a modern learning platform that would seamlessly integrate with a Microsoft 365 digital workplace and existing learning content, much of which was in Word, PowerPoint and SharePoint formats.

The new system had to be easy to use and support Teach First Germany's blended learning program, consisting of e-learning, social learning and classroom-based training. As a non-profit, the system also had to provide value for money.

After an evaluation of different learning platforms, LMS365 emerged as a clear winner. Michael Raible, Senior Expert and Program Manager, explains:

LL LMS365 integrates so perfectly with our existing Microsoft 365 environment. It is a very lean solution, meaning that we were able to implement LMS365 very quickly and efficiently without having to reproduce our content or get involved in a complicated technical setup.

He continues:

LL It offers all the normal features of an LMS, such as embedding content packages with SCORM as well as good participant and progress tracking features. The ability to support our face-to-face training was another crucial element, for example giving us a quick way to generate attendance lists for participants.

Once LMS365 was selected, the team worked closely with the LMS365 team for a smooth implementation. Michael Raible remarks:

LL The team was very helpful and supported us with the resources and knowledge to launch LMS365.

Results

Today, over 100 new fellows each year access a 'Fellows portal' to reach all the resources they need to support their school placement, including a Leadership and Education hub based on LMS365 for training. The overall portal is built on SharePoint, but integration with LMS365 creates one seamless, single experience without users knowing they are accessing a different platform. Michael Raible explains:

“Our Fellows never realize that they are leaving the SharePoint interface and accessing their LMS365 dashboard. All information and learning are accessible from one interface with a consistent look and feel.”

LMS365 supports Teach First Germany's blended learning approach, bringing structure to different learning experiences, including an 'Online Campus' with e-learning and social interaction, a classroom-based Summer Academy and ongoing seminars during the actual assignment. Michael Raible explains:

“The leadership program involves two years of blended learning. We needed a digital platform that is flexible and comprehensive to cover every scenario, meeting different needs in the best possible way.”

LMS365 has successfully brought all these experiences together digitally, including by digitizing much of the classroom-based content to navigate the challenges of COVID-19. Accessing everything in one place has had a very positive reaction from learners. Michael Raible comments:

“Our Fellows were thrilled with the structured presentation and flow of content in LMS365. It is allowing them to make great progress and have more control over their learning.”



Content available for over 100 new users each year



Transformed learning experience



Updated and flexible blended learning approach

Results

Moreover the comprehensive range of features has transformed the learning experience for both Fellows and the learning team; for example, tracking learning was not previously possible. The introduction of LMS365 means participants and trainers can easily track the status of their learning that still needs to be carried out with just one click. The learning team can also generate reports to view overall training participation and certification status.

The intuitive interfaces within LMS365 allow the learning team to easily create interactive tests to determine the individual knowledge level of learners, and then they can use the certification feature to reward successful course completion. The ability to support classroom and event registration has also been enormously valuable, including in generating participant lists

LMS365's tight integration with Azure Active Directory is also automating some of the administration of the platform. Michael Raible comments:

“The nice thing is that LMS365 is always synchronized with Azure AD, so when a new Fellow is entered into the system, they are automatically added to our pool and the content is gradually activated.”

Future

Looking to the future, the team has several plans for LMS365, including opening up access to a wider group of users. Michael Raible comments: *"We have recently increased the number of learners on LMS365 for a large democracy promotion project." The main goal of this project is to bring together Fellows and so-called democracy scouts (social workers) at schools to train them specifically.* He continues: *"We are also considering bringing the rest of the Teach First Germany team on to the platform and using it for onboarding."*

Meanwhile the course catalog continues to evolve and grow, a process made easier by LMS365's intuitive interfaces. Michael Raible says: *"We are constantly developing content or transferring it to LMS365. The system's ease of use makes this very straightforward to do."*

The team is also planning to allow LMS365 to be accessed through Microsoft Teams, supporting the evolution of new ways of working at Teach First Germany. Michael Raible explains:

“We will be running one of our academies through Microsoft Teams for the first time. Our learners will be able to access LMS365 via a tab within Teams, merging social learning and technical learning into one place, and making it even easier for Fellows to get all the learning resources and support they need.”

About

Teach First Germany is a non-profit educational initiative that helps to drive equal opportunities in education. Each year, it takes gifted graduates (“Fellows”) and organizes two-year placements in underresourced schools in low-income communities to support students.

Quick facts TEACH FIRST GERMANY

Industry: Education, non-profit

HQ: Berlin, Germany

Established: 2008

Web: www.teachfirst.de

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The only learning
platform built into
Microsoft 365 & Teams.

