



Anglia Ruskin University partners with Scientia to maximise space utilisation and improve experience for staff and students

University sees significant increase in satisfaction and better utilisation of facilities with advanced product suite from Scientia.

About Anglia Ruskin University

Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) caters for over 35,000 students, with 17,000 of those studying across three core campuses in Cambridge, Chelmsford and Peterborough.

The University has invested heavily in campus redevelopment over recent years, including a new dedicated healthcare site in Cambridge and the MedBIC in Chelmsford.

In addition to the main campuses, the institution has a number of partner institutions in the UK and overseas, with an international office fostering further links to ensure international students receive a high standard of support and information.

The Challenge

The timetabling procedure for ARU was very different prior to working with Scientia. In 2009, the University published two single semester timetables per year, two weeks before teaching was due to start. They built timetables using two systems, replicating data in both, with the various faculty members providing 'ideal' timetables that didn't always fit into the available space. The timetabling team was unable to provide comprehensive space usage information, and could not accept forward bookings for events or facilitate faculty conferences due to poor visibility.

In order to improve the quality of information and streamline the timetabling process for staff and students, the University wanted a solution that would enable them to centralise all timetable and room booking information into one single system, and implement an annual cycle to produce a complete University timetable in July for the following academic year. They wanted a universally accepted and agreed timetabling methodology with a set of principles and decisions in place to underpin the timetable, encouraging University-wide engagement, resulting in 'buy-in' to significant cultural changes.

The Strategy

The University identified 19 key principles and decisions that were endorsed by senior management and underpinned the entire timetable.

An annual programme of work was introduced to ensure clash-free timetables were delivered in advance of the academic year:

Month	Milestone
November:	Faculties confirm courses running and option modules offered. Provide details of new courses and planned Curriculum Revisions
January:	Faculties to submit reviewed/updated/new timetabling & rooming requirements for each module delivery.
March:	Faculties provide staff constraints
Mid-March:	Students make module choices for next year
May:	Provisional timetable released to faculty timetablers for checking
Mid-June:	Provisional timetables released to all staff for checking
Last week in July:	Final timetable published to staff and students

ARU awarded the contract to Scientia due to their experience in delivering intuitive applications for higher education institutions.

They purchased a range of solutions including Scientia's core timetabling software Syllabus Plus Enterprise Foundation, Web Room Booking (WRB), Web Data Collector (WDC) and the Syllabus Plus Data Adapter (SPDA) which is a middleware solution designed to move data between databases including the E-Vision SITS student record system.

The Result

Over the last twelve months, ARU has realised significant benefits in student and staff satisfaction. In 2015, the NSS recorded vast improvements as a result of the new timetabling process, with organisation and management scores rising by 24 percentage points.

With access to Syllabus Plus Enterprise Foundation, the Timetabling and Rooming team can manage bookings for all three campuses. They now provide personal timetables for staff and students and make one-off bookings for conferences, events and other meetings.

Forward planning for conferences and events is now possible as advance booking can be taken. They also carry out space modelling for building projects, refurbishments and curriculum developments.

The timetables are now available via the ARU portal and app with course, module and room timetables published on the website.

Live room timetables are also published on electronic screens outside classrooms, and students also receive an email and app alert to advise on any timetable changes.

Staff members also have access to personal timetables from July onwards and they can make one-off room bookings via Web Room Booking as soon as the timetable is published, with 18,244 online bookings made in 2013/14.

The Scientia product suite has seamlessly integrated with ARU's existing systems including e-Vision, CampusM and Novicom digital screens.



About Scientia

Over the years, Scientia has built an enviable reputation as a global market leader in the provision of resource management solutions for the Higher and Further Education sectors.

Scientia provides smart software solutions and consulting expertise to help institutions make the most efficient use of their valuable resources, including staff and space.

Contact us

For more information about our smart software solutions, consulting services or to find your local office, please go to our website www.scientia.com or phone us on:

Regional Head Offices

United Kingdom: +44 (0)1223 884949
Australia/New Zealand +61 (0)2992 99292