Case Study | Nepal Open University

Nepal Open University uses Moodle as their official learning management system to run all their academic programs.

The Nepal Open University (NOU) is a public University funded by the Government of Nepal. Established in 2016 by the Open University Act promulgated by the Parliament of Nepal and with the same legal status as other universities in the country, NOU has the objective of making higher education accessible to all people, including those living in far-flung areas and those who can not attend university regularly.

Challenge

To offer quality education to both in-class and remote students, NOU was looking for a robust platform to run its programs, with ample pedagogical opportunities to address all students' learning needs. As an Open University, NOU needed to establish a system to offer not only materials and guidelines online, but also assignments, assessments and the possibility to attend live lectures.
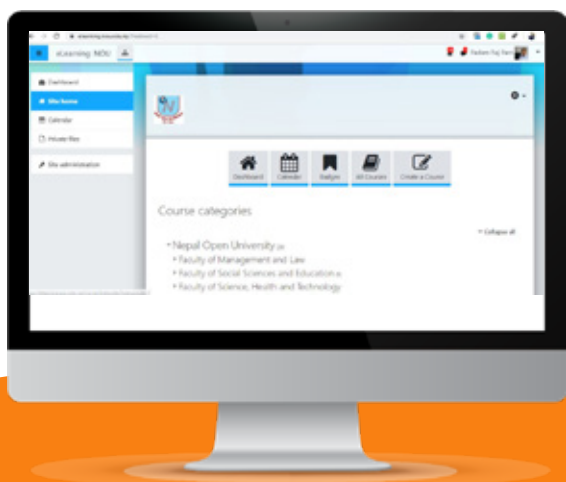
Solution

After considering proprietary solutions and commercial software, NOU opted for an open source solution for its flexibility, cost-effectiveness and the in-house customisation and hosting possibilities inherent to it.

Amongst other open source solutions, NOU chose Moodle for its robustness and its regular updates and improvements, as well as for a series of strategic factors that satisfied the requirements of their program, including:

- The ability to integrate with software that allowed NOU to live stream classes for remote students, where they could attend, participate and ask questions

- A user-friendly interface that students could quickly familiarise themselves with

- Integration with external software such as e-cloud laboratory

- Capability to extend the platform's functionality and features with plugins

- Powerful learning management capabilities to manage both courses and students

- Advanced tracking and reporting of student engagement and performance

Outcome

Two years after its launch, NOU offers over 200 blended undergraduate and graduate courses, using both face-to-face and online delivery, to more than 1,600 students. The online learning, around 40 classes daily, represents more than 80% of all classes, and it is delivered both synchronously and asynchronously.

NOU has integrated Microsoft Teams and Office 365 through plugins in their Moodle site, so that through a single portal their learners can access both the live streamed classes and their repositories, as well as learning materials, assessments and resources for offline classes.

Using Moodle, NOU is providing content and learning activities, as well as setting assignments, bringing remote students into asynchronous discussions and forming a learning community. NOU has also taken a step further and is using Moodle to train their own staff and faculty, developing education and training plans for their learning and development program.

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