



7 Inspiring Ways Universities Are Using Blackboard Collaborate

Blackboard®



DESIGNED FOR EDUCATION

Blackboard Collaborate is a modern solution for online collaborative learning. Based on feedback from tutors and students, its principle features cover:

- Browser-based web conferencing
- Breakout groups and instant polling
- Award-winning accessibility, including closed captioning
- Real-time interactive whiteboard with text and annotations
- Sharing of screens and apps
- Records sessions as video
- Chat and file-sharing
- Virtual hand-raising, profiles and participant lists



BUT COLLABORATE CAN DO EVEN MORE

Collaborate plays a key part in Blackboard solutions for distance and blended learning – but its uses don't end there.

Think about:

- Collaborative research
- Blended classrooms
- Virtual inductions and open days
- Online intercultural exchange
- Online training
- Social Language learning
- Guest lectures and presentations
- Virtual meetings and interviews

There's more to Collaborate than you might think

**PEER-TO-PEER COLLABORATION -
DEAKIN UNIVERSITY, AUSTRALIA**

**Deakin University had four
particular challenges:**

- Improve student retention
- Improve student grades
- Help students gain independent study skills
- Enable students to review lectures, practice questions and problem solve together



PEER-TO-PEER COLLABORATION - DEAKIN UNIVERSITY, AUSTRALIA

To solve this, students now use Collaborate to meet online no matter where they are. It's self-supporting, with a nominated IT student providing IT support. The results were great:

- 1 hour of group study proved equal to 3 hours of self-directed study (matching a similar pilot from the University of Reading recently)



A photograph of the University of Leeds building, featuring a modern facade with large glass windows and a curved section. The building is set against a clear sky with some bare tree branches visible in the upper right. A magenta semi-transparent box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing text.

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

1

How can Collaborate help you?

Peer-to-peer learning – let students work in groups to improve retention, grades, study skills and problem solving

MARJORIE AND ARNOLO ZIFF BUILDING



RESEARCH COLLABORATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Collaboration is used extensively throughout the University of Leeds, where it's tightly integrated and promoted within the university's Blackboard Learn portals. It's used for:

- Distance learning
- Blended learning
- External presentations
- Virtual open office hours
- And as a standalone service for academic staff, who use it within their research



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The pitch there really is about research collaboration, new ways of working and more efficient use of time. We're trying to encourage people to use it for collaborations which would normally involve travel... We're trying to make people aware that it's a flexible, online collaborative tool, which is more powerful than something like Skype."

Neil Morris,
Director of Digital Learning,
University of Leeds

The background of the slide is a photograph of a classical stone building with multiple levels of arched windows. A large, solid magenta rectangle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the number '2' and the main text. At the bottom left, there is a small yellow and orange striped vertical bar.

2

How can Collaborate help you?
Cut travel. Save money. Save time.



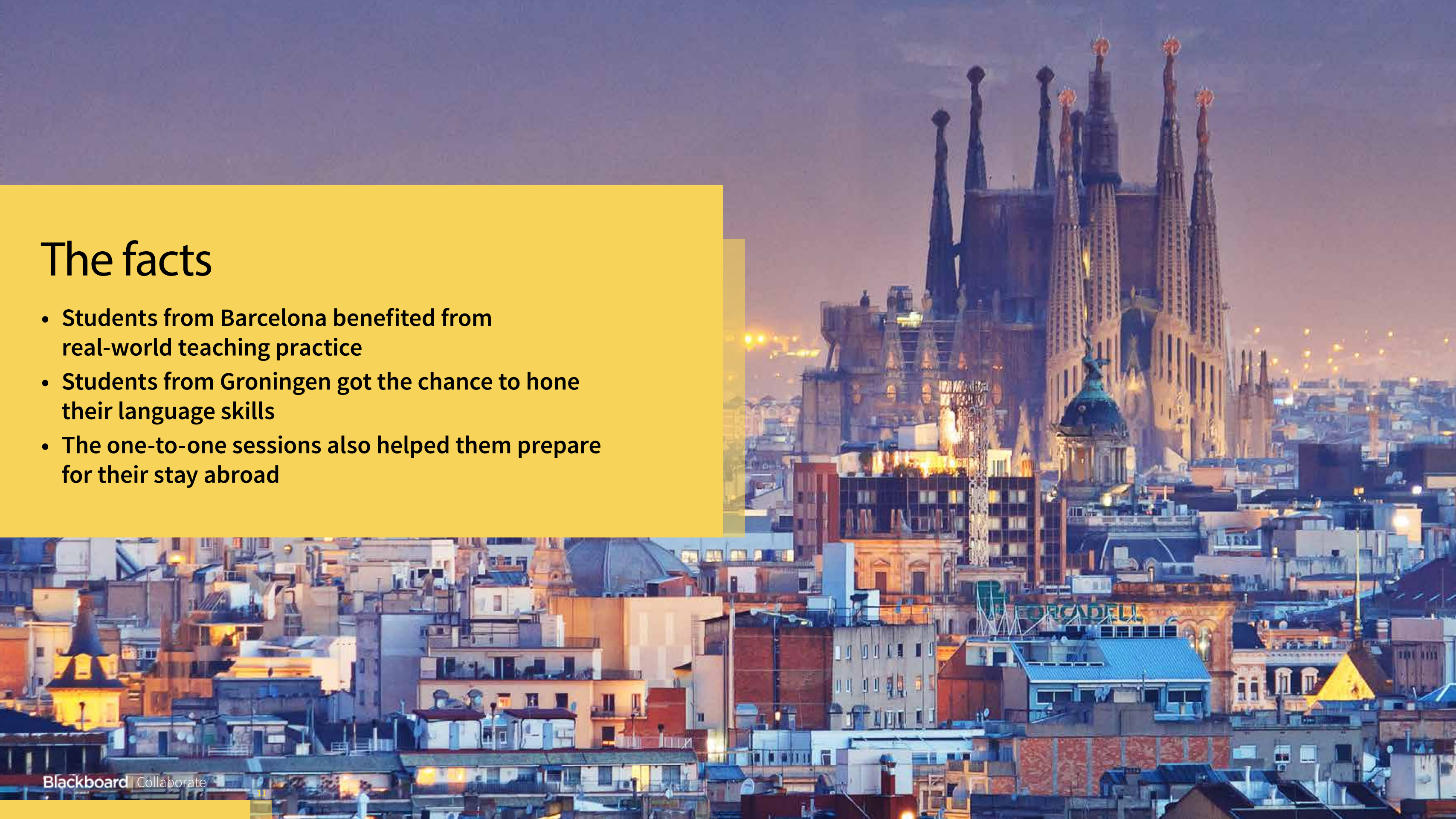
Telecollaboration – University of Groningen/University of Barcelona

The University of Groningen had students in the Department of European Languages and Cultures that wanted to learn Spanish. The University of Barcelona had students in the Master of Teaching Spanish as a Second Language who wanted to learn how to teach it.

Joan-Tomàs Pujolà from Barcelona and Gerdientje Oggel, Carolina Fernández Royón and Juan Alba Duran from Groningen used Blackboard Collaborate in bringing the two together in one-to-one sessions.

The facts

- Students from Barcelona benefited from real-world teaching practice
- Students from Groningen got the chance to hone their language skills
- The one-to-one sessions also helped them prepare for their stay abroad





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How can Collaborate help you?

Two sets of students with different needs can create a powerful synergy. Are there other subjects or other institutions that could help you achieve more in yours?



VIRTUAL OPEN DAYS – UNIVERSITY OF DERBY

Not all students can travel to a University open day, so the University of Derby came up with an ingenious solution courtesy of Blackboard Collaborate. This helped potential students:

- Find out about life at the university
- Learn more about specific programmes
- Engage in live Q&A sessions with the academic staff
- Talk to other potential students and form bonds

Running across the institution, with multiple highly coordinated sessions, these virtual open days and online information sessions play a crucial role in attracting students from around the world.

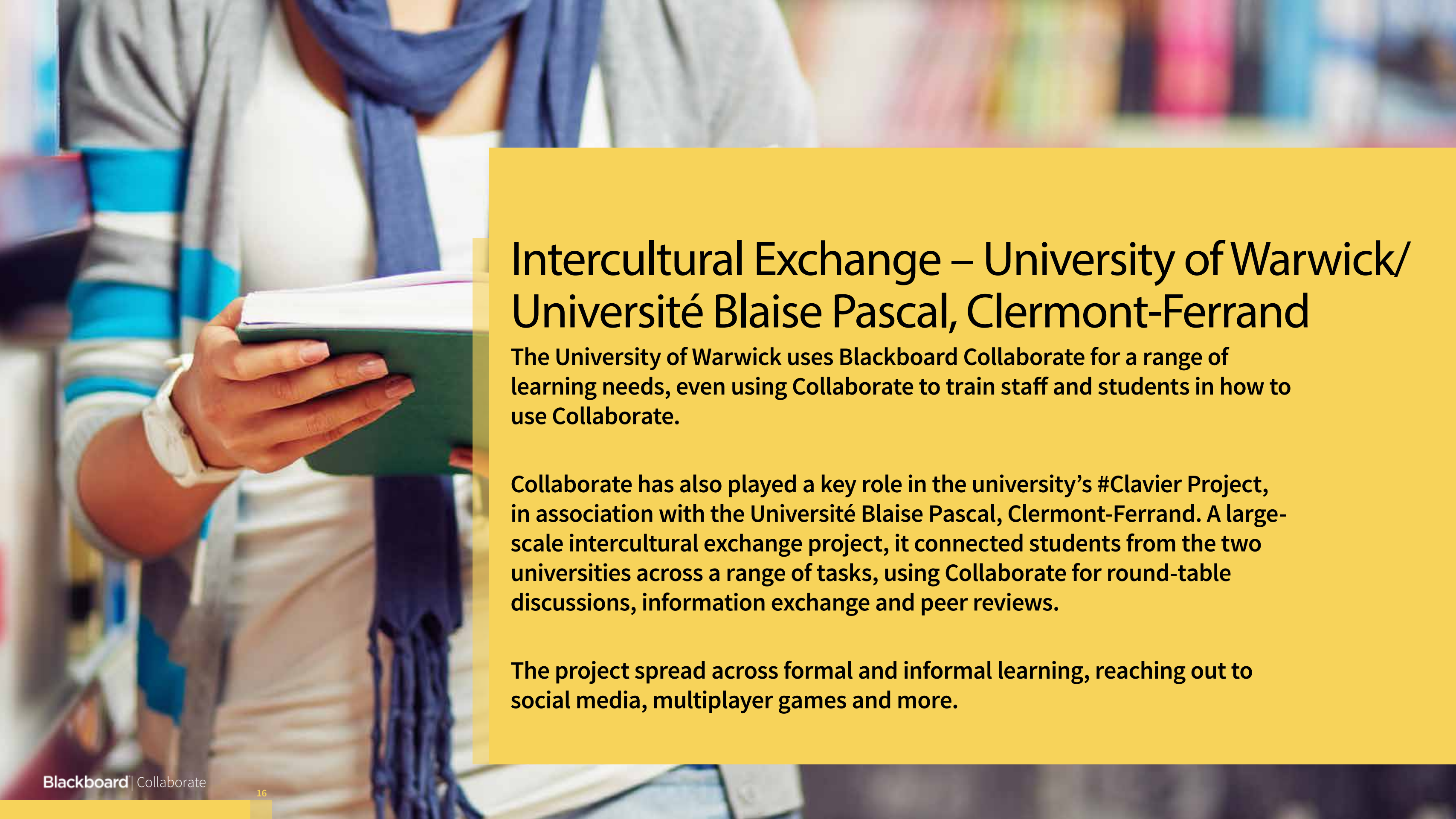
A man with glasses and a plaid shirt is pointing with a white marker at a map on a greenboard. The map shows various colored regions. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a classroom or office setting.

Virtual Open Days - Proof of success

- Since 2009, over 600 enquirers from more than 30 countries have booked onto the Virtual Open Days
- Conversion rate is incredible: 50% of those who attended
- Number of online distance learning students doubled from 700 in 2009 to over 1,500 in 2011

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How can Collaborate help you?
Could it help your university reach out to a wider
market or compete for the best and brightest minds?

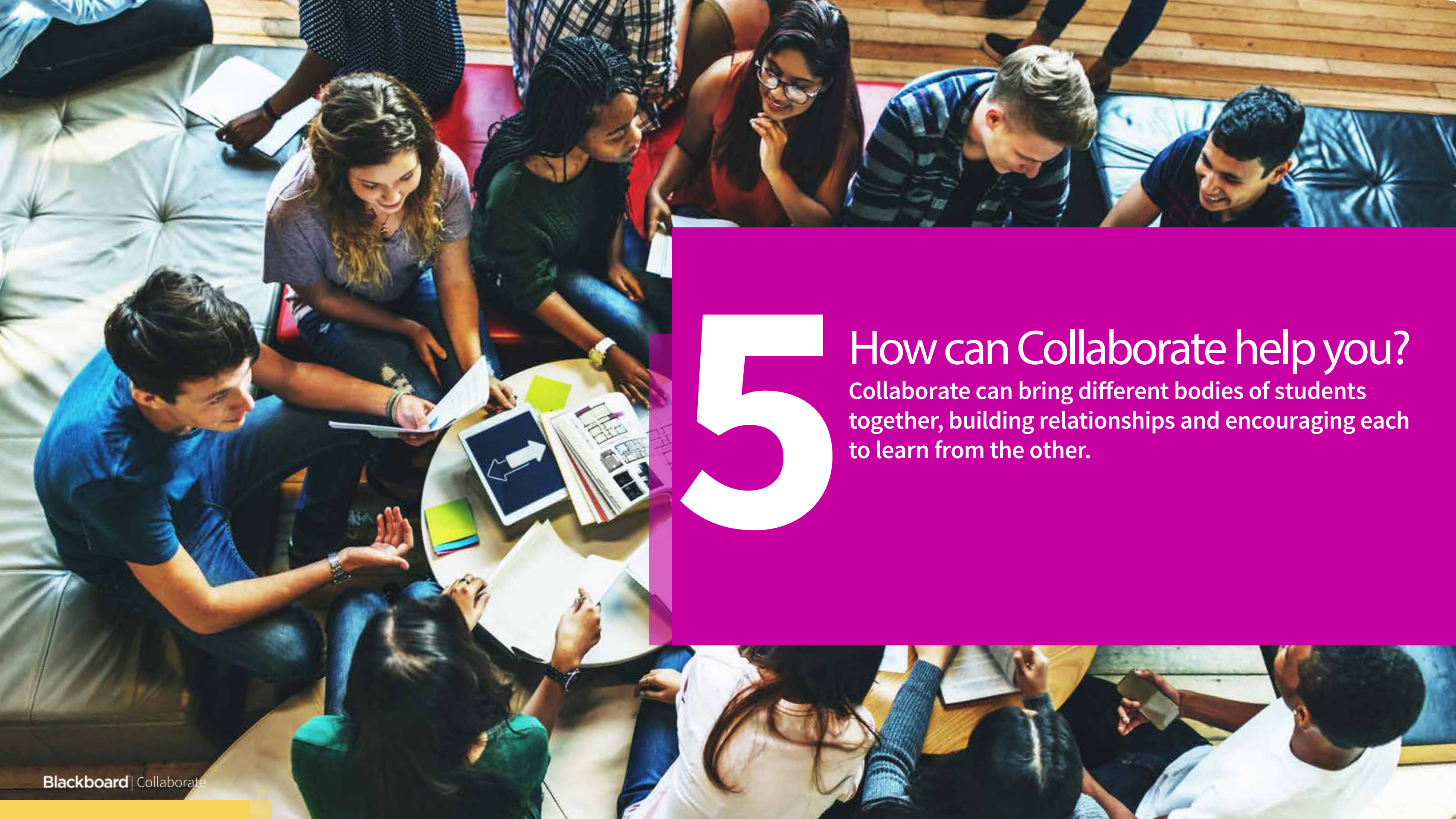
A person wearing a grey cardigan over a white top and a blue scarf is holding a green book. The background is blurred, showing other people in a library or bookstore setting.

Intercultural Exchange – University of Warwick/ Université Blaise Pascal, Clermont-Ferrand

The University of Warwick uses Blackboard Collaborate for a range of learning needs, even using Collaborate to train staff and students in how to use Collaborate.

Collaborate has also played a key role in the university's #Clavier Project, in association with the Université Blaise Pascal, Clermont-Ferrand. A large-scale intercultural exchange project, it connected students from the two universities across a range of tasks, using Collaborate for round-table discussions, information exchange and peer reviews.

The project spread across formal and informal learning, reaching out to social media, multiplayer games and more.



5

How can Collaborate help you?

Collaborate can bring different bodies of students together, building relationships and encouraging each to learn from the other.



GUEST LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS – NUI GALWAY

The National University of Ireland, Galway, was the first university in Ireland to have invested in campus-wide Collaborate access for all students and staff, where it's used for:

- Meetings, seminars and tutorials
- Breakout groups for student project work
- Project planning


Collaborate is also used to add guest lecturers who otherwise wouldn't be able to participate

6

How can Collaborate help you?

Collaborate can break down geographical boundaries and give your students access to leading thinkers and practitioners from around the globe.





Blended Classrooms – University of Westminster

At the University of Westminster, they're experimenting with the use of Collaborate to provide a blended classroom experience by having students join the virtual Collaborate classroom on their mobile devices, whether they are in the lecture hall or off-campus.



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You can show things within that Collaborate room on the big screen at the front, but the difference is that because the students within the classroom are joined to the same session from their own mobile devices, they can also interact."

Gunter Saunders,

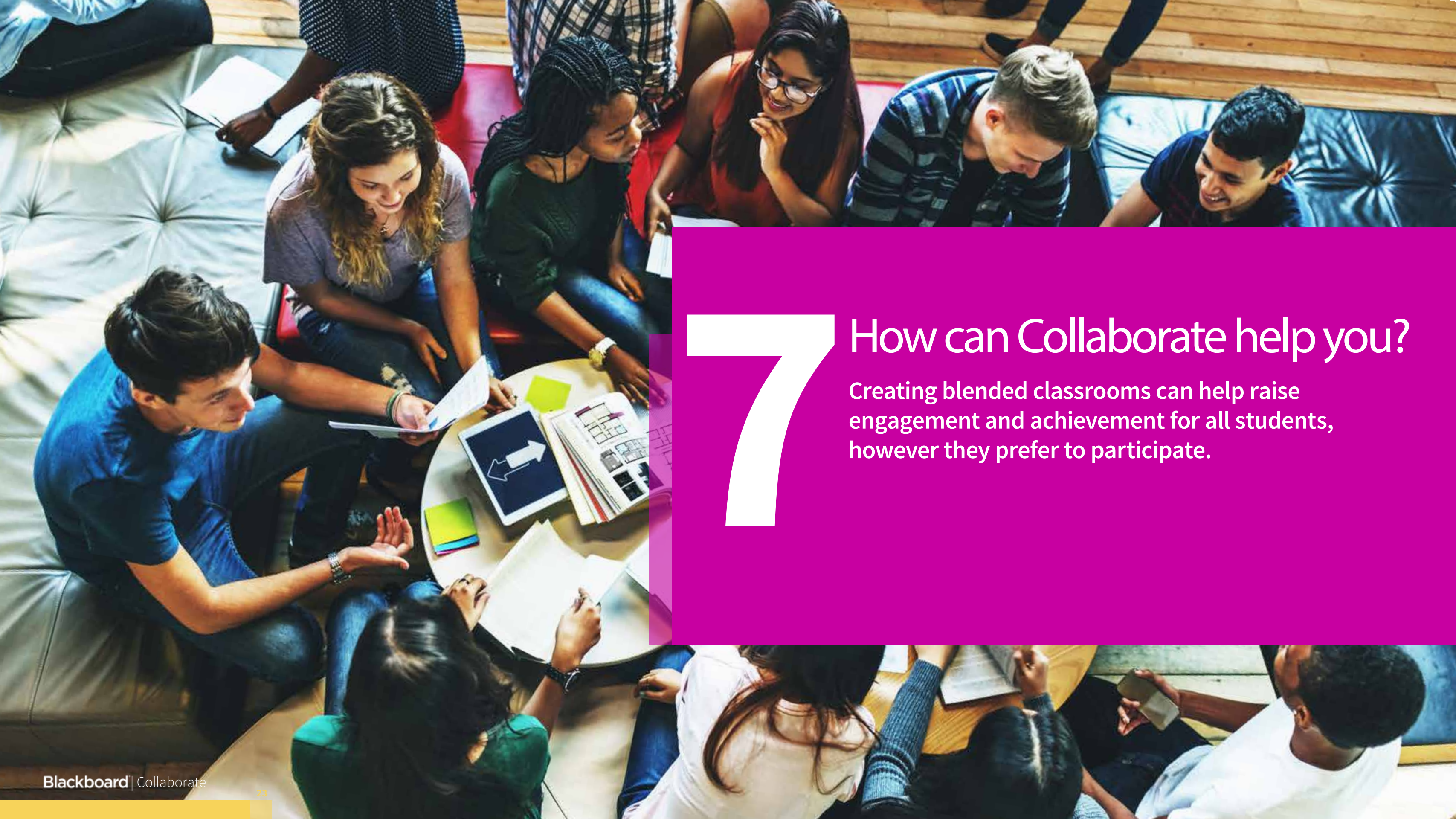
Director of Internet and Education Technology,
University of Westminster



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It's a virtual classroom within the physical classroom. You're in the physical classroom, you've got 30 students there; of course you can ask them a question and they can shout out. But the thing is, they don't all shout out. Other students might be prepared to give you a response online that will appear up on the screen but aren't prepared to actually speak in the class."

Gunter Saunders,
Director of Internet and Education Technology,
University of Westminster



7 How can Collaborate help you?

Creating blended classrooms can help raise engagement and achievement for all students, however they prefer to participate.



Collaborate can do more for your university

Harness its power for teaching and learning, but....

... use your imagination. Are there other ways that Collaborate could work for you?

Blackboard®

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