

Inspiration®

De Montfort University (DMU) Case Study

Inspiration: Supporting DMU's Universal Design of Learning Strategy On and Off Campus



Universal Design for Learning – the approach adopted at DMU to enhance learning and the reason why the Library has opted to teach ALL students on a suite of assistive software.

A particular focus is on their suite of site licensed software which includes Inspiration. DMU has opted to continue having a site licence of Inspiration, as it is well used by students on campus, and includes an option to offer home licences, allowing all their students to install Inspiration on their own devices.

Jina Ali is the Assistive Technology Officer at DMU, working within Library and Learning Services (LLS), where their remit is to provide support to all students. So what has been the take up from students for installing Inspiration on their own devices? Jina provides some insight,

“Yes, it’s very popular. I started offering it to students and promoting it in all my assistive technology and study skills workshops. I’m even getting the academics on board as well, because I go and show them Inspiration 9 so that they can encourage the students to use it. It is really picking up

now and people are asking for it.”

Jina stressed it isn’t only just students with disabilities asking for it.

“We have health and life science students such as nursing who are very interested in the visual mapping part of Inspiration, because they deal with a lot of processes and like to visually map it, not just for their papers, but also for revision. And they love it.”

How does Inspiration solve the needs of De Montfort University

<p>Universal Design For Learning</p> <p>DMU LLS recognised that Inspiration can benefit ALL students and is a core component of their armoury to deliver a UDL experience.</p> <p>Plus, if the visual approach offered by Inspiration is the student’s preferred way of working, the software can be installed onto the student’s device.</p>	<p>DSA students without their laptop</p> <p>DMU LLS wanted to create a 24/7 learning environment where students could access all the tools they needed, irrespective of whether they had their laptop or not.</p> <p>On campus computers and in the library, a DSA student can access Inspiration.</p>	<p>Study skills: Academic Writing</p> <p>Once a week, the 500 Word Club is a place students can attend to get support with structuring and writing academic assignments. If they get stuck, they can turn to Inspiration to help them move along, by visually mapping out their ideas. Plus, regular workshops are delivered by LLS on using visual mapping to help with academic writing.</p>
<p>Study skills: Illustrating Processes & Concepts</p> <p>As Inspiration makes it easy for students to create process maps and concept diagrams, they are encouraged to use Inspiration to create these, to assist with their assignments, as well as incorporate them to illustrate points they are making.</p>	<p>Study skills: Revision</p> <p>In the lead up to exams, LLS will run regular workshops for students.</p> <p>In these sessions, Inspiration is introduced as a tool to help them with revising for their exams.</p>	<p>Teaching</p> <p>Staff in particular faculties such as nursing are starting to explore the use of Inspiration to explain complex processes more visually and to incorporate these into student resources such as module handbooks.</p>

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