

LIVE- ON- LINE

THE NEW, FLEXIBLE MODE OF STUDY FROM
INTERCOLLEGE GLOBALTRAINING

Photograph by Jo Michaelides

In 2010, Intercollege Globaltraining embarked on a project aiming to provide students with an innovative mode of study that is flexible enough to accommodate busy professionals, those who live some distance away from its study centres, students with military service obligations, and working mothers, while guaranteeing the same high standard that has earned Intercollege Globaltraining its reputation as a quality tuition provider.

Christopher
Kazantzis





Through “Live-On-Line” tuition, students are able to study in their office or conference room at work, or even from the comfort of their home. No specialized equipment is required: all that is needed is a computer and an Internet connection.

Gold spoke to Christopher Kazantzis, Manager, E-learning Studies and Senior Lecturer at Intercollege Globaltraining.

Gold: Why “Live-On-Line”?

Christopher Kazantzis: There are two approaches to online teaching – synchronous and asynchronous learning. Put simply, you can either offer recordings of the lectures or you can offer a “real-time” lecture. We chose to offer real-time lectures as this provides more interaction between the students and the lecturers, hence the name we chose: “Live-On-Line”. Based on the feedback received from our corporate clients and from students themselves, we believe that this option provides the highest quality of online teaching.

Gold: How exactly does it work?

C.K.: Our lecturers deliver their courses from their base location in Cyprus, Greece or Romania. All our lecturers are experienced in the subjects they teach and they teach them in a classroom environment. Before delivering an online course, they undergo training on how to use the relevant technology and on how to best deliver the lectures. Lecturers use a tablet computer for delivering the course. From

their side, students can see exactly what the lecturer sees as the latter shares his screen. This means that any document the lecturer uses will also be visible to the students. The lecturers have the ability to write on the tablet screen using a special pen, which means that lecturers can annotate their notes, just like using a blackboard in class. Students can listen to the lecturers through their speakers, see them deliver the course via a camera, and

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interact with them using a chat-box.

Gold: What if you can’t watch the lecture at the precise time that it’s being delivered? One of the advantages of online learning is being able to choose when to study.

C.K.: Yes, and this is why another important feature of “Live-On-Line” is that we offer students “classroom on demand”, which means that if they miss one of their online lectures they are able to watch a recording using a link provided after the actual lecture. The recorded lecture is available for a limited amount of time (usually up to 48 hours) and aims to ensure that students do not miss out. Upon registration, all students receive an information pack with all the necessary

information they might need for accessing our courses.

Gold: What is the difference from a classroom course and a “Live-On-Line” course?

C.K.: The obvious difference is that students do not attend their courses in a classroom but other than that they are very similar – the same lecturers, the same books, the same quality. All notes used for the online lectures are from the same books used in the classroom so “Live-On-Line” students do not miss out on the materials that the classroom students have at their disposal.

There is one other main difference, however, and that is that the online courses are more intensive. In total, the number of lecture hours is lower than it is in the classroom. This is because online courses are generally more efficient as there are fewer interruptions. As a result, students are expected to do more work on their own to ensure they keep up with the course. Having said that, the number of lecture hours is roughly double that of our main competitors, as we aim to cover the entire syllabus as opposed to leaving sections out for students to study entirely on their own.

Gold: What courses do you offer online?

C.K.: We currently offer the majority of the ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) modules using our “Live-On-Line” courses. Students are able to attend the tuition phase online and then choose one of our classroom-based revision courses in any of our centres. Of course, students may choose the “Live-On-Line” revision course if that suits them better.

We also offer online CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) courses, a selection of the ICAEW (Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales) Knowledge modules, preparation courses for the Professional Competence Certificates for Investment Services Firms, and seminars for professionals with an emphasis on accounting, banking and finance.

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