Blackboard

AKARI

Your university's reputation is built on your curricula. Give yours a future-focused foundation.

As a university, the curricula you offer your students is one of your key differentiators. Both now and into the future, it will also be a reason a student chooses your university over another. And when that student invests significant time and money in building their career with your educational institution, it's essential that the learning outcomes, opportunities and programs you promote are what your students receive.

To stand out, your university needs a fresh, engaging and ever-evolving curriculum that reflects market trends, as well as what's actually happening in the employment landscape. It needs to be innovative, future-focused and unique, with a solid and compliant academic foundation and an agile and efficient approval process.

In contrast to this imperative, however, the vast majority of Australia and New Zealand's universities are still relying on dated, ad-hoc, paper-based systems for curriculum management. As a result, refreshing, designing and maintaining curriculum is often extremely time-consuming, fraught with risk, and challenging when assuring compliance with government standards.

The reality of curriculum management in many universities:

- Time consuming and cumbersome
- Labour intensive, paper-based and manual
- Prone to error/compliance risk
- Lacking in innovation

Akari integrates with most LMS platforms, creating a seamless course and assessment design, approval and delivery environment.

83% of undergrads would like greater integration between their future employment and education[i]

54% of students would consider switching university for better uses of technology and innovation[ii]

How Akari can position your university for the future

Akari is a smart, cloud-based curriculum management solution that can help with the review, design, approval, publication and resourcing of all your educational goals/outcomes, courses and programs. It can be fully customised to suit your university's specific curriculum and ways of working. Plus, it integrates seamlessly with your other institutional frameworks, including the Blackboard Learn Platform, and other learning management systems, tools and apps like a Student Information System, to help you:

- **Adapt** your curriculum quickly and easily to changes in the market and employment landscape.
- **Attract** more students by taking an agile approach to offering fresh and ever-evolving programs.
- **Help** your staff collaborate effectively and efficiently when it comes to designing or updating programs.
- **Meet** compliance requirements and regulatory scrutiny by providing a central source of truth, and ensuring your university is delivering on its educational promises.
- **Reduce workload** for academic administrative staff charged with maintaining and updating curriculum on an ongoing basis.

Most importantly, Akari gives you a single source of curriculum truth across all your facilities and accreditations.

[i] Can the universities of today lead learning for tomorrow (The University of the Future), EY [ii] TechnologyOne research, June 2019

Why choose Akari?

Customised to your university

Akari is a flexible solution that can be completely customised to your university's curriculum, resources, goals and processes, assuring a reduction in administrative load on individual staff, committees, and administrative units.

Match education to employment

Today's students expect a customised curriculum that's in line with the real world, and what employers want. Only 1 in 5 students born between 1997 and 2012 are confident they have the skills to succeed in an 'Industry 4.0' environment, and put the onus on educators to help them gain those skills[iii]. With Akari, you place employment-based learning outcomes and university graduate attributes at the centre of the system. This accommodates launching new courses and programs as well as re-structuring curricula, without in-depth technical challenges. Fully configurable workflows and tools can transform ways of working and can drive efficiency across your university. Staff can easily collaborate on curriculum planning, development, implementation and review — and get automatic notifications when curriculum changes.

Stay compliant

Akari provides a central repository of auditable curriculum detail, and also enables automated learning outcome mapping – so you can track course learning outcome progression against program outcomes. It also ensures all stakeholders, including external bodies and third-party providers, can be on the same page when it comes to curriculum data — and that the university can meet the quality standards required by accrediting bodies such as TEQSA with the AQF in Australia and AQA in New Zealand.

Fast and easy to use

With Akari, it's incredibly easy to add and change courses, instantly updating your academic calendar and more.

Go micro

Evidence suggests that to gain a competitive advantage, 85% of universities are already offering or developing micro-credentials as stackable online units, or courses bundled into awards such as "Micro Masters"[iv]. Akari makes this level of customisation possible — enabling students to create a credential, certificate, diploma or entire degree that's specifically relevant to their needs and career aspirations.

Work seamlessly

Akari seamlessly integrates with common learning management and student management systems, including Blackboard Learn. The curriculum details you specify in Akari can also be easily extracted for use in a range of marketing opportunities, including any advertising materials and your curriculum handbook.

Reporting and planning

Akari also has rich reporting and resource planning/modelling capabilities — saving time, and enabling you to ideally link curriculum to programs, academic units and individual staff members. In times of course rationalisation, this tool is invaluable in identifying those courses integrating similar learning outcomes or employment goals.

Rely on a single source of truth

Akari also removes the problem of inconsistent, opaque pockets within the curriculum where certain programs or modules are not up to date. Instead, it puts all curriculum data into one, central, auditable location.

How Bond University revolutionised its curriculum management

In the past, Queensland's Bond University relied on a cumbersome, paper-based system to design and manage its curriculum. Modifying programs each semester required a great amount of re-work.

Since moving to Akari, the university's staff now update and modify existing programs which are stored in a central, cloud-based database. They also now map program learning outcomes to subjects, and subject learning outcomes to assessment data which they will report to Faculties, significantly improving course quality. This has saved the university huge amounts of time, and substantially increased productivity, quality of delivery, and outcomes for staff and students.

> "[Akari] will help manage risk because, if there is for example a program that has an unexpectedly high failure rate in a semester, we would be able to look at students' performance within that program over a period of time to identify what is going wrong."
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> Professor Keitha Dunstan, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Bond University.

[iv] DeakinCo Review 2019 [iii] Deloitte 2019 Millennial Survey