



Promoting enrichment with integration

How partnership helped implement a learning solution in record time

Overview

With over seventy years of excellence in knowledge production in Brazil, Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV) always strives to deliver service quality and efficiency. To stay at the forefront of innovation, FGV acknowledged the need to enhance integration between the virtual learning environments used across its several facilities.

By partnering with D2L, FGV was able to implement Brightspace in its eight schools in record time. They also seamlessly integrated the platform with their academic systems. Thanks to the efficient training provided by D2L and an intuitive interface that's easy to use, faculty and staff members were able to quickly adapt to the platform and successfully incorporate it into the educational process.

The Brightspace platform is already being used in 307 courses and by approximately 1250 learners at FGV. The institution plans to deploy the platform across its entire course offering and make it available to around 12,000 students by mid-year. With the goal of making sure that no user feels left out—whether they study in online, offline, or blended courses—FGV is investing in digital innovation to ensure that every student is engaged with learning no matter where they are.

AT A GLANCE

Client	Fundação Getúlio Vargas
Students	12,000
Level	Undergraduate and Graduate
Solutions	Implementation, training, and integration

CHALLENGE:

- Unify virtual learning environments across eight schools
- Support their unique academic systems with a single learning platform
- Empower educators to enrich knowledge production and transmission
- Prepare the staff to support the implementation of an integrated learning solution
- Increase engagement of online students with the academic routine

SOLUTION:

- Partnering with D2L to implement a fully-integrated solution
- Intuitive and time-saving tools that motivate faculty members
- Easy-to-use interface to efficiently engage educators and learners
- Accessibility anytime, anywhere

RESULT¹:

- Implemented the learning platform in record time
- Successfully deployed the solution for 307 courses and 1250 users
- Provided training to 180 teachers and 60 analysts over three weeks
- Improved efficiency for producing, enriching, and distributing materials
- Plans to leverage the platform across other courses and to 12,000 learners



AT THE FOREFRONT OF TECHNOLOGY

Since its inception in 1944, Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV) has always looked towards the future. Initially focused on administrative personnel qualification, the institution soon expanded its activities to other fields of the social and economic sciences. They aimed to transcend the barriers of education with research and innovation.

Today, FGV is a center of excellence in knowledge production and transmission. Its course offering for undergraduate and graduate levels includes online, offline, and blended delivery models.

THE POWER OF INTEGRATION

With higher education schools located in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, the expansion of FGV's school system eventually ran into an obstacle. Across its eight units, four different virtual learning environments were being used—each of them with its own unique characteristics and demands.

While some schools were already familiar with digital learning technology, others barely used any of the resources at their disposal. The reasons ranged from employee resistance to change to a lack of guidance on how to use them.

Such a variety of tools—and ways to use them—ultimately led to a lack of integration between virtual learning environments and the registrar, academic grading, and student monitoring systems. In order to continue driving development and expanding the distribution of knowledge, FGV needed to increase the unification of all its tools.

COMPREHENSIVE OUTREACH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE

THE INSTITUTION

Undoubtedly, the prestige and recognition that FGV has achieved are largely due to its faculty and staff. To ensure the success of the solution they adopted, it would be critical to offer high-quality training to their most important collaborators.

With faculty members unmotivated by technology, the initial challenge was to raise awareness so that they could accept and embrace a new learning platform. With intuitive and time-saving tools at hand, experienced educators are able to focus their efforts on what matters most: teaching and learning.

In keeping with FGV's strategic objectives, enriching the transmission of knowledge could also enhance student engagement. This would be especially true for users enrolled in online courses. As they are already physically separated from their instructors and peers, leveraging technology plays a fundamental role in lessening the gap between these students and the school. It can help educators ensure that all students feel included in the academic routine.



Solution

EVERY RESOURCE IN ONE LOCATION

With their scattered campuses, FGV acknowledged the need to invest in a centralized solution that could offer resources to suit the educational needs of each of its schools. To address this challenge, FGV partnered with D2L to implement the Brightspace platform.

Brightspace makes it possible to centralize a world of educational resources in one location. With the platform, FGV is able to support a single repository of curricular content, providing learners with easy access to all the material they need to achieve their full potential.

SUCCESSFUL ADOPTION

One of the key factors that led FGV to choose Brightspace was how easy it is to use. Other systems require multiple steps to perform basic tasks, but Brightspace saves teachers time by allowing them to drag and drop content into courses, grade on the go, and easily organize materials.

“It seems really simple, but for a teacher who needs to prepare for a class and organize their material, it’s amazing to be able to count on such an easy-to-use virtual learning environment,” explains Ana Lúcia Rossi Mendonça, Coordination of Educational Technologies, TIC – FGV.

The ability to easily customize courses, create content, and grade activities helped motivate teachers to adopt Brightspace. By eliminating the need to invest too much of their energy in administrative tasks, they can spend more time tracking student progress and efficiently delivering knowledge to the whole community.

To ensure that everyone could master the new solution, the D2L team provided support and training for staff and faculty members and closely followed the implementation of the platform. They also assisted the analysts at FGV throughout the data integration process.

TECHNOLOGY THAT BENEFITS EVERYONE

The efficiency of a learning platform also depends on how well it can engage the most important user: the learner. In addition to a layout that resembles social media, Brightspace offers similar resources to the ones students already use on a day-to-day basis. This fosters a sense of familiarity with the platform.

“Both new and current generations are becoming increasingly more involved with technology. We can’t brush it aside,” says Professor Ricardo Ratner Rochman, Tenured Professor, School of Economics, FGV. Whether they are on a computer or using smartphones or tablets, learners should have access to education anytime and anywhere.

By combining an easy-to-use virtual learning environment with personal learning paths, online students can also feel closer to the institution. For example, tools that enable video recording and transmission help educators play a more active role in the life of every learner, while also promoting communication and collaboration between peers.



“The main challenge we face in blended courses is bringing learners closer to the school and including them in a study and work routine to ensure that they don’t feel left out. It’s important that they have access to the same development and application that on-site students experience.”

Professor Ricardo Ratner Rochman, Tenured Professor, School of Economics, FGV



AGILITY IN THEORY AND IN PRACTICE

Supported by the D2L team, Brightspace was implemented and fully integrated with the various academic systems at FGV in record time. Following a series of successful tests, the platform is already up and running in the School of Economics of FGV. It will be leveraged for other courses later this year.

Overall, the Brightspace platform is available to 307 courses and around 1250 users. Over 180 faculty and 60 staff members received training on how to use the solution. Within three weeks, they were fully prepared to integrate the platform into their work routine.¹

A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Despite some initial resistance, the solution has worked seamlessly. In very little time, teachers were able to adapt their traditional material to the new online platform and different course delivery models. This has helped them meet the demands of students in online, offline, and blended courses.

The successful implementation and integration of Brightspace inspired an optimistic view on its application within FGV. The institution plans to expand the use of the platform over its entire course offering, making it available to around 12,000 students by mid-year. They'll be able to leverage Brightspace to enrich materials that are already integrated with the platform and share them across other courses at FGV.

EXPAND, INCLUDE, ENGAGE

By expanding the adoption of Brightspace by its learning community, FGV will be able to transform the platform into a truly collaborative environment for all its users. This will enable learners to stay in direct contact with the school, the course, and their educators.

In fact, the solution has already been seamlessly integrated into the learners' study routines. This is mainly due to the easy-to-use Brightspace interface and learners' innate affinity with new technologies. "I believe that students are eager to learn," adds Professor Rochman, "and that a platform that facilitates this type of learning can also overcome distance, which is very beneficial."

For example, a virtual learning environment supports remote access through smartphones. That's generated extremely positive feedback from learners. With quick adaptation by all its users, FGV has helped students in different locations overcome the distance barrier and engage directly with their learning experience

About D2L

A global leader in EdTech, D2L is the creator of Brightspace, the world's first integrated learning platform. The company partners with thought-leading organizations to improve learning through data-driven technology that helps deliver a personalized experience to every learner, regardless of geography or ability. D2L's open and extensible platform is used by more than 1,100 clients and 15 million individual learners in higher education, K-12, healthcare, government, and the enterprise sector—including Fortune 1000 companies. The company has operations in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, Brazil, and Singapore. www.brightspace.com | www.D2L.com

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