How the University of the West of Scotland uses Lt to prepare nursing students for working in the healthcare sector.

The University of the West of Scotland (UWS) uses Lt to create and deliver lessons and clinical skills laboratories in their BSc Adult Nursing course. In particular, the teaching team has found that Lt’s innovative Patient Case Library - a collection of over 30 real-life patient cases - has been effective for preparing students for the rigors of a real-world clinical environment.

The patient cases within Lt help students to understand key medical conditions across a range of cardiovascular, respiratory, neurological and renal conditions, and more.

About Lt
Lt is a cloud-based learning platform that bridges the gap between theory and practice by delivering an engaging immersive learning experience.

Designed to stimulate active learning based on the latest pedagogical research on engagement and retention, Lt has 340+ fully editable life science lessons created by a specialized team of instructional designers. Educators can also create, customize, and deliver their own content using Lt’s modern tools and features. Lt gives students the unique ability to record and analyze their own physiological signals, encouraging active learning and giving students an engaging, immersive learning experience.

LMS integration
Lt integrates with Learning Management Systems including Moodle, Blackboard, and Canvas, for easy course administration.

Using Lt’s Patient Case Library has helped the BSc Adult Nursing teaching team to:

- Increase student engagement
- Accelerate clinical skills
- Improve graduate confidence
- Bridge nursing theory and practice

“Lt’s real patient case studies make theory highly clinically relevant and engaging for our students.”

– Jack Simpson, Lecturer, BSc Adult Nursing, UWS
Prepare nursing students for the real world

With work-based learning making up 50% of the programme, lecturers in the Adult Nursing team need to quickly and efficiently equip their students with the essential skills and knowledge they need to begin work in the busy healthcare sector.

The challenge is that, without ever having experienced key medical conditions first hand, the clinical environment can be overwhelming for a student nurse or a new graduate.

How could the teaching team help their students to gain a solid understanding of key medical conditions and their presentation, so they could confidently work with patients in the real world?

According to Tony Wales and Jack Simpson, lecturers in the Adult Nursing degree, utilizing Lt’s Patient Case Library as part of their curriculum has been pivotal to the quality of the nursing graduates that the degree produces.

Patient Case Library
31 PATIENT PACKS OF REAL PATIENT CASES

Lt’s Patient Case Library is a collection of valuable resources from real-life patient cases, packaged and ready for nursing educators to use.

There are 31 different patient packs, each focusing on an individual patient, and covering a range of cardiovascular, respiratory, neurological, and renal conditions, and more.

Each pack includes: a summary of the patient’s medical story, video interviews with the patient and their healthcare professionals, test results, specialized investigations, patient history, and videos of key medical procedures performed on the patient.

Patient Case resources can be easily integrated into a lesson, without the need or cost of creating your own multimedia.

Bridge theory and practice

Final year student Gertrude believes that Lt’s Patient Case Library has improved her knowledge about patient’s conditions and the patient’s journey.

“The patient scenarios help you understand the medical history of the patient and what they are going through. It’s helped me to understand how we should engage when we come into practice. So it’s theory and practice all coming together.”

Gertrude, final year student, BSc Adult Nursing, UWS

Linda, also a final year student, appreciates the invaluable insight into nursing procedures.

“We get to see procedures like ECGs being done, which you may not get to see in other classes or on practice placement. You get to see angiograms - how the heart works and how the blood flows through the heart, which is really useful.”

Linda, final year student, BSc Adult Nursing, UWS

Accelerate clinical skills and knowledge

For nursing lecturer, Tony Wales, Lt’s real-life patient case studies and accompanying resources have made a huge impact on the successful transition of their nursing students into the working environment.

Tony says, “Students see and hear from real patients, real relatives, specialists, nurses, and have access to all the paperwork and results that go with it. They can see the long term progression of a real person’s condition because the filming has followed the patient for months or years.”

Tony is confident that using Lt’s Patient Case Library has made for more advanced nursing graduates. He says, “Having the ability to have seen a patient, to have seen a case, means that students can get their head around conditions and what happens in a hospital much easier when they go into practice because they’ve seen it before. Its familiar.”

“The students are more confident and advanced for using Lt, and are more equipped for going out into practice.”

Tony Wales, Lecturer, BSc Adult Nursing, UWS
Encourage active learning

During class, students record and analyze their own physiological signals using Lt’s hardware teaching kits, giving them a powerful personalized learning experience. For lecturer Tony Wales, this active interaction during class has resulted in students that are more engaged in bioscience.

“I like seeing the change in the student’s attitudes when we work through Lt and they use the hardware to record signals from their own bodies. You can actually see the light bulb coming on in the student’s brains.”

“Many of our students haven’t got a science background so working with real equipment and getting real biosignals really gives us a way to engage students and it helps them to understand those core concepts.”

Save time
Lt’s modern interface and tools for easy customization have improved efficiency by reducing the amount of time the nursing lecturers spend preparing for classes and adapting lessons at the start of the year. For Tony Wales, Lt makes it easy to update courses with new research and important information. He says “In nursing, the research changes all the time, in Lt you just make alterations to the page you need and it saves it automatically. Easy.”

Easy to use
Educators are free to use and customize the content provided in Lt, or they can easily add their own material by dragging and dropping it into Lt, and edit using modern tools and features. Lecturer Tony Wales says, “A lot of lecturers have their existing notes in PowerPoint and it’s easy to pull those over into Lt and make them interactive.”

Nursing content, ready to go
Additional to the Patient Case Library, Lt comes complete with over 340 fully editable life science lessons, pedagogically designed for active learning.

Improve collaboration and communication
The Adult Nursing degree at UWS is offered at four different campuses, meaning that the teaching team is dispersed. Tony Wales believes that Lt’s online capabilities have made it easier for their team to communicate and collaborate.

Tony says, “Our curriculum is much more uniform across the different campuses now - so it gives every student, at every campus, the same quality of information.”

Flipped classroom teaching
Lecturer Jack Simpson says, “We get the students to work on relevant material in Lt prior to coming into a clinical simulation environment. For example they might cover information about a patient so that when they come to their clinical simulation they know that patient and their condition much better.

Access course content anywhere, anytime
The ability for students to access their work and lessons anywhere, anytime is especially useful for students who have busy lives outside of class.

“I don’t have to physically be in the university to open my work. I like working at home. I can log into Lt anytime, 24 hours a day.”

Marguerite
Final year student, BSc Adult Nursing, UWS
About The University of the West of Scotland

University of the West of Scotland (UWS), one of Scotland’s largest modern universities, aims to have a transformational influence on the economic, social and cultural development of the west of Scotland and beyond. In 2018 UWS climbed further in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. UWS is now in the 401-500 category out of the 1,250 institutions rated by THE and in the top half of the 98 UK institutions which were included in the rankings.

BSc Adult Nursing at UWS

The BSc Adult Nursing provides the knowledge, skills, practical experience and confidence that students need for a successful career in nursing.

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