



# Virtual Classrooms

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# Virtual Language Learning: case study



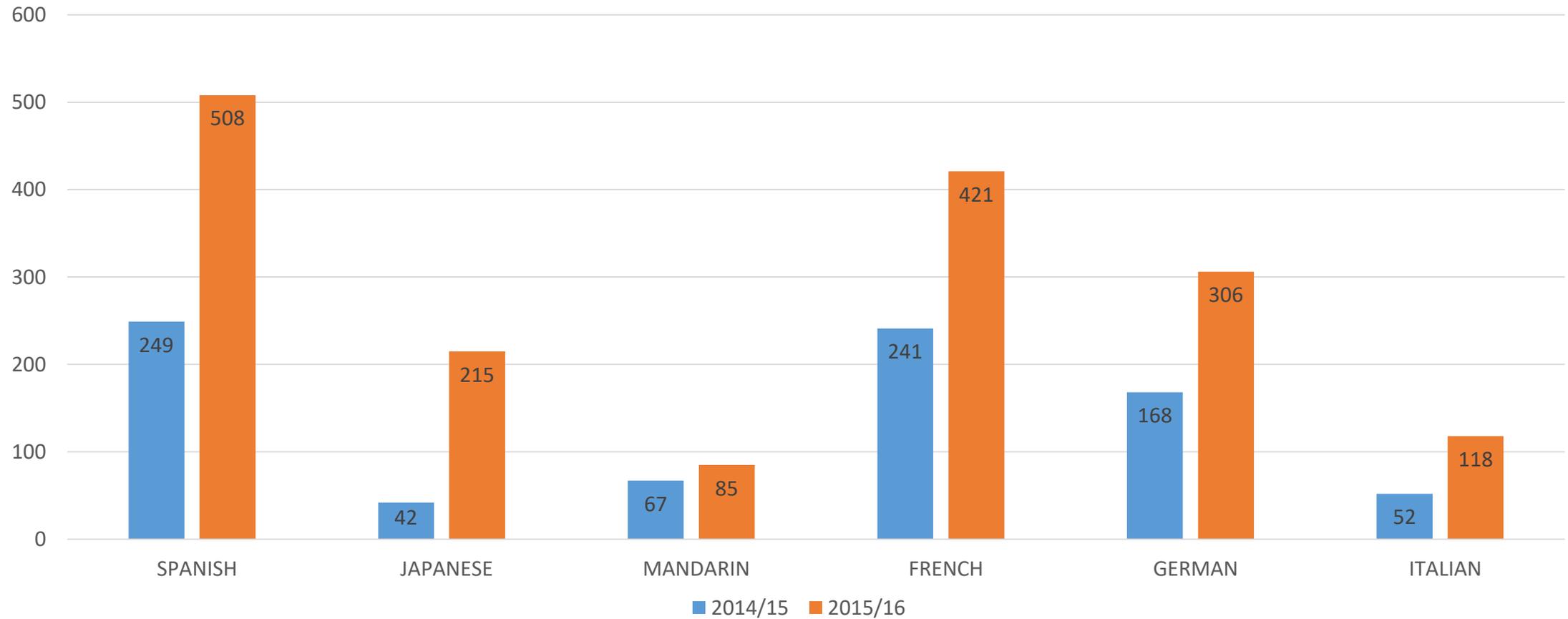
- What is *Languages for All* and why do we need a virtual classroom
- What Collaborate can offer
- How Collaborate meets our needs

# Languages for All



- University-wide programme
- Part of *The Way Forward* strategy
  - 17% of Cardiff's home students working or studying abroad by 2017
- Available to all undergraduate and postgraduate students at Cardiff
- All our courses are FREE to students
- We are benchmarked to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages
- We link to external language certification boards that are internationally recognised

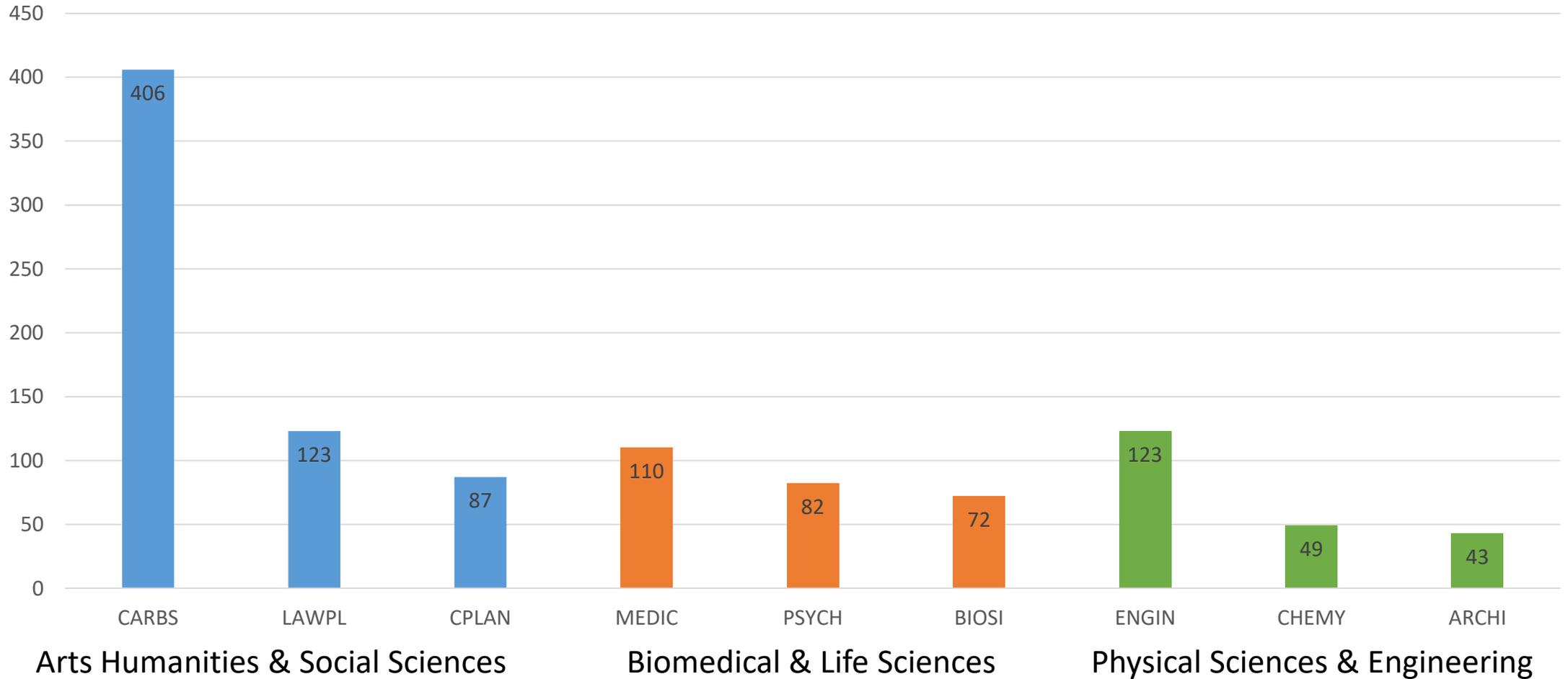
# LfA over 2 academic years



Total for 2015 Semester 1 = 819

Total for 2016 Semester 1 = 1653

# LfA across the faculties



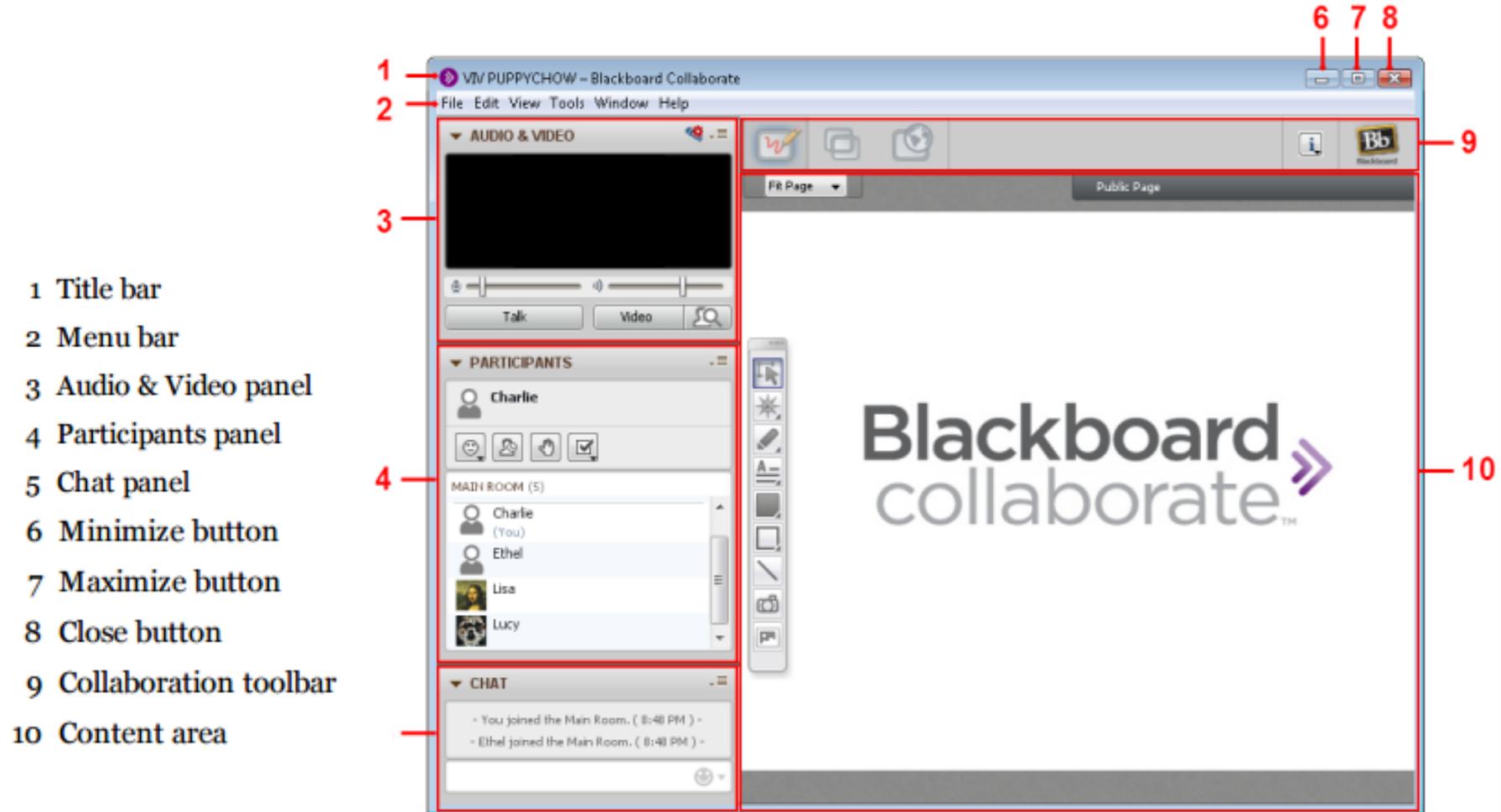
# Recreating an interactive dynamic

- Virtual classroom environments are used for blended and distance learning with students of all ages and levels of computer literacy at Open University
- Unlike video conferencing tools, Collaborate can be used to create a true classroom online in which students can engage in individual, pair, and group work with the tutor working as a facilitator
- Communication is made non-threatening by variety of activities and interaction patterns

# Aims of the Virtual Classroom Pilot

- To design a module aimed at meeting the needs of students who are unable to attend classes
- To create a truly blended learning environment incorporating face-to-face sessions with online tutorials
- To use existing course materials such as PowerPoint, video and audio material, and pair or group activities to create interactive online tutorials
- To make full use of Blackboard Collaborate by using Collaborate Plan to create interactive whiteboards, quizzes, and tests

# How it works: participant view



Source: Blackboard Collaborate Web Conferencing Moderator's Guide

# Student feedback on classroom environment

*“The interactivity between the participants and the tutor gave the tutorial more of a ‘classroom’ feel than would be possible a more static online tutorial, but still offered the convenience of not having to travel to the class. Activities where we were required to move words and phrases around to the correct column etc. enhanced the learning experience, rather than simply listening and speaking.”*

# Flexibility of approach

- PowerPoint presentations can be loaded directly into Collaborate
- PowerPoint slides can be manipulated into interactive whiteboards on Collaborate Plan
- Therefore a distance or blended course can cover the same course content as a true classroom environment

# Example activity: the partitive

## Classroom

- PowerPoint slide as prompt
- Student handout with list of nouns and visual cues
- List writing or match with cue cards

## Virtual Classroom

- PowerPoint slide as prompt
- Interactive whiteboard with nouns and visual cues
- Moving nouns to the correct column

la mozzarella



il vino



la mortadella



le melanzane



le mele



le pere



le zucchine



la limonata



il manzo



il parmigiano



le ciliege



le salsicce



lo spumante



l'acqua minerale



il pecorino



il pollo



gli spinaci



le cipolle



le patate



le fragole



i limoni



il latte



il caffè



i pomodori



i funghi



**AUDIO & VIDEO**

Talk Video

**PARTICIPANTS**

**Theresa Federici (sestf)**  
Moderator

MAIN ROOM

MAIN ROOM (1)

**Theresa Federici (sestf)**  
Moderator (You)

- Room 1
- Room 2
- Room 3
- Room 4

**CHAT - Supervised**

- You joined the Main Room. ( 20:57 ) -  
- Your chat permission has been enabled. ( 20:57 ) -

Theresa Federici (sestf) 21:13  
Buonasera

Benvenuti 21:13

Room Moderators

New Page Delete Page Fit Page

mozzarella 	vino 	mortadella 	melanzane 
pere 	zucchine 	limonata 	manzo 
ciliege 	salsicce 	spumante 	acqua mineral 
pollo 	spinaci 	cipolle 	patate 
limoni 	latte 	caffè 	pomodori 

Recording Reminder

Recording not started. Start recording now?

Don't remind me again

Start Close

Page Explorer

Slide4 6/34 Follow

- Italian Beginners Part 2
- Italian Elementary
- Slide2
- Gli articoli
- Slide4**
- Slide5
- Some and any
- Del, dello, dell', della, dei, degli, delle
- Tocca a voi

Session Plan Library  
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 Private Screen 2

del dello dell' della dei degli delle

melanzane  zucchini  mortadella  mozzarella  vino 

parmigiano  manzo  limonata  pere  mele 

pecorino  acqua minerale  spumante  salsicce  ciliege 

funghi  limoni  patate  pollo 

pomodori  caffè  latte  cipolle  fragole 



Using the same PowerPoint slide in Collaborate Plan to create an interactive whiteboard

**AUDIO & VIDEO**

Talk Video

**PARTICIPANTS**

Theresa Federici (sestf) Moderator

MAIN ROOM (1)

Theresa Federici (sestf) Moderator (You)

**CHAT - Supervised**

- You left Room 3. ( 11:25 ) -
- You joined the Main Room. ( 11:25 ) -
- You left the Main Room. ( 11:25 ) -
- You joined Room 4. ( 11:25 ) -
- You left Room 4. ( 11:25 ) -
- You joined the Main Room. ( 11:25 ) -

Room Moderators

New Page Clear Page Delete Page Fit Page

Private Screen 2 6/16 Follow

del dello dell' della

pecorino spumante acqua minerale limonata funghi

caffè zucchini mortadella mozzarella vino

latte manzo parmigiano fragole mele

dei degli delle

pomodori spinaci melanzane patate

limoni pere cialicce

pollo cipolle ciliege

# Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning

- All aspects of a Collaborate lesson can be saved:
  - Whiteboards
  - Text chat
  - Audio
- Students can access the recordings for their session on Learning Central
- Vocabulary lists generated in the text chat and whiteboards for can be saved by individual students or by the tutor as revision material

# Next steps for the LfA Pilot



- Staff training will be offered this semester and next semester in Collaborate and Collaborate Plan
- Courses will be offered for January in selected languages
  - Further student and tutor feedback sessions will take place to assess provision
- Materials will be built up over the academic year with a view to introducing virtual classrooms throughout the language provision from October 2016

# Student Feedback



*“I feel this technology could be pivotal in progressing the LfA programme as it will undoubtedly encourage more students who feel they cannot give up 2 hours a week to travel to the Languages School to enrol, and still offer an excellent learning experience. Furthermore, Blackboard Collaborate itself could be rolled out across the University, enhancing seminars and tutorials on existing courses, and perhaps be used for the establishment of new courses that could be offered to students to enhance their overall university experience.”*



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Languages for All

School of Modern Languages