



UNIVERSITY OF AGDER

6 Years with the Fronter Open Learning Platform

CASE STUDY


With more than six years experience of the Fronter Open Learning Platform, the University of Agder, has invested both time and resources into setting up their online learning facility. Starting with only a small number of licences in the Department of Further Education, time and experience proved the value of the Fronter platform and now a university with over 8000 students and 900 staff see Fronter as a standard tool used on a daily basis.

The University of Agder is the fifth largest higher education institution in Norway, and the first institution in Norway to receive the European Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (ECTS) label.

Speaking with Tore Junker, Senior Executive Officer, he explained how the proof of Fronter's success in one faculty, resulted in its gradual, and now complete, campus wide installation. After an initial implementation of the platform within the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, other faculties started to see the value of one campus wide system that could take care of all their student and staff's collaborative needs. As members of the reference group for Higher Education, representatives from University of Agder have also been able to have their specific needs heard and seen how their input has shaped the development plan of the platform over the last 6 years.

The central administrative systems have been integrated with Fronter, enabling automatic creation of rooms, groups and user accounts. From here, faculties each are given the freedom to design and stipulate their use of the platform, according to their faculty's needs and resources.

The Fronter learning platform has enabled efficient communication between staff and students and amongst the different faculties, through Staff, Project, Faculty and Administrator rooms. 'Students are important motivators in extending the platform's use, as they have often had previous experience with the benefits of a learning platform,' says Tore Junker.



The University of Agder has just started using the digital exam tool, making it possible to administer home exams to certain students. In addition to this, discussions are under way to integrate a plagiarism control function into the learning platform; a key functionality in Higher Education, and a simple process with the Fronter learning platform.

Fronter Connecting People:

Selected programmes are offered at Agder University, and set up in a way that a large proportion of the study period is distance learning. A Master in Development Management involves students from Africa, Europe and Asia, and is possible through the functions and tools offered in a learning platform. As well as scheduled face to face meetings, these students are expected to carry out a large proportion of their studies individually, but have access to peer discussions, forums with their tutors and lecturers, and a wide range of resources that can be stored and uploaded, from the online Fronter learning platform.

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Tore Junker
Senior Executive
University of Agder

