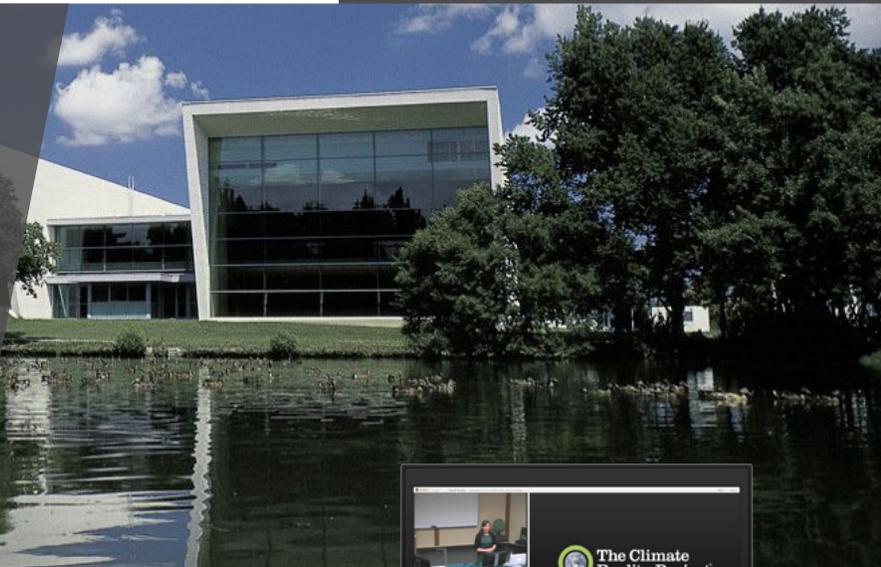# The University of Waikato

Video transforms how students learn
and communicate.

In 2009, The University of Waikato in the "river city" of Hamilton, New Zealand, was searching for technology to capture its on-campus lectures. With the deployment of Panopto, Waikato got the lecture capture technology they needed, and in the process, discovered some exciting new ways to use video for learning.

Scalable, easy-to-use lecture capture

Initially, the university was looking for a solution that would enable them to record lectures and upload them to its iTunesU website. Nigel Robertson, Head of the University's eLearning Centre, said that when the Centre was tasked with evaluating a number of lecture capture technologies, they found Panopto to be the most scalable, flexible, and easy to use solution.

Because Panopto runs on any laptop, the university could capture lectures anywhere on campus without the need for expensive specialized hardware. Panopto's webcasting capabilities would enable the lectures to be streamed live anywhere in the world. And the built-in video content management system would provide on-demand access to lectures from any laptop, tablet, or mobile device.

With a simple click of a "big red button," as Robertson says, professors were pleased at the ease with which they could record lessons at the front of a classroom or at their desks. In class, Panopto's open architecture made it possible to record lectures using Waikato's existing security camera system. And in their offices, professors could use Panopto to record lectures with a webcam via their Windows or Mac laptops. Panopto's automatic synchronization of video, slides, and screen capture allows professors to create professional-looking recordings without expensive and time-consuming post-production.

"With Panopto," Robertson says, "everybody's a videographer."

About Waikato
Location: Hamilton, NZ

Type: Public University

Students: 12,563

Schools: Arts and Sciences, Computing & Mathematical Sciences, Education, Te Piringa Faculty of Law, Maori & Pacific Development, Science & Engineering, Waikato Management School

Website: www.waikato.ac.nz

Breaking down barriers to education

As Panopto usage by faculty and students spread, the University discovered that it could also play a critical role in extending a college education to people who wouldn't otherwise have access.

University leadership knew that economic and life factors such as fulltime work, raising a family, or living outside commuting distance could prevent some students from pursuing a degree. As part of its commitment to making education broadly accessible, The University of Waikato began using Panopto to bridge this distance learning gap for students.

Using Panopto, students can watch recorded lectures from anywhere at a time most convenient to them. Students can also use Panopto's video search engine to find specific words or phrases covered in the lecture — either in the professor's slides, or in transcribed audio — and jump straight to that point in the recording. This allows students to review and better grasp specific concepts without the need to watch the entire lecture again from start to finish.

For Waikato's eLearning and on-campus programs, recorded lectures with Panopto have broken down barriers to participation, increased student learning opportunities, and greatly improved the overall academic experience.

Beyond lecture capture:
Elevator pitches, live performances and more

From 2009 to 2011, the average time spent viewing Panopto lectures jumped from 19 hours per week to more than 4,700 hours per week. Although the statistics show that students, staff and faculty have found tremendous value in Panopto's recorded lectures, use of the technology hasn't stopped there. Faculty and staff are now using Panopto in ways never imagined when the Waikato Centre for eLearning was first asked to find a lecture capture tool.

Management graduates use Panopto to record and hone their business pitches — reviewing their recordings immediately after presenting and making adjustments on the fly.

Ensembles are broadcasting their performances live over the web to parents and music enthusiasts across New Zealand and around the world.

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66 As an institution, we value education for all, and the demographic profile of our students is broadening. An important factor for equity is the flexibility that recordings enable. 99

— **Nigel Robertson,** Head of the Waikato Centre for eLearning, The University of Waikato

An English as a second language (ESOL) team is using Panopto to display the shape of a mouth pronouncing English words to offer more in-depth instruction for those learning a new language.

A professor in the University's engineering program has experimented with Panopto's unique multi-cam video to capture complex demonstrations from multiple camera angles while simultaneously capturing his writing through the inclusion of a digital whiteboard.

Staff and faculty across the university have been using Panopto's desktop capture capabilities to create screencasts and 'How-to' videos. The instructional screencasts cover a range of topics including software installation and using the University's learning management system. The University Law Library alone has over 50 short screencasts showing how to perform effective legal research.

Robertson also reports that some faculty members have begun to explore the use of video for student feedback on their assignments. "The recording allows for more detail and personalization than is possible with traditional margin notes. As a student's essay is shown on the screen, the instructor can work through it, highlighting sections while speaking to its structure and content," Robertson said. "It's yet another innovative use for Panopto at the University. It's a great tool for both our students and our faculty — one that fosters an interactive learning environment, and encourages self-discovery and continuous improvement."