

## EDUCATOR TESTIMONIAL LONDON SOUTH BANK UNIVERSITY

<b>COURSE:</b>	3 foundation degrees (university foundation degree, business foundation degree and computing foundation degree)
<b>USED SINCE:</b>	2008
<b>SUMMARY:</b>	MyMathLab was originally adopted to give business students an opportunity to practice their maths skills on 3 foundation courses in the Faculty of Business. It was then utilised to assess students via weekly homework and class tests.
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### What benefits have you seen from using MyMathLab?

Since I've been using it, my pass rate has gone up. The first year I used it was quite striking. As far as students go, it improves their mark. The objective of foundation year maths is for students to use maths as a tool for their degree, it's not really about learning concepts. They just need to be able to do it. That's clearly the advantage of MyMathLab. It gives them a chance to practice and practice and practice, and that's what they need.

I think I've got more ideas of how the students are doing because I can review progress on a weekly basis. Before MyMathLab it would get to week 5 and I would see that someone I thought was doing ok, had failed. Whereas with MyMathLab I can see on a weekly basis who's struggling and give them extra help. I can tailor the assessment as they go along based on how they've done.

### What challenge or problem did you hope MyMathLab would solve?

Originally I adopted MyMathLab because I wanted to give the students opportunities to practice their maths skills. I wanted to put my students in control of their own learning, which is ultimately what being at university is all about. When I started to use MyMathLab, I realised the opportunities it presented in terms of assessment.

### How do you use MyMathLab with your students?

On two of the courses I set weekly homework that counts towards their final mark. On the business foundation course, they have 3 class tests, set through MyMathLab which account for 100% of the assessment for that course. They are also set weekly quizzes to use as practice. I use it for formative assessment as well as summative, so I can see how students are performing, and understand whether I need to tailor something, perhaps by changing the pattern of the weekly quizzes – adding more questions, or changing the questions. The students get consistent and immediate results from the assessments and they know straight away whether they've passed or failed. They also get feedback on their mark, and understand which questions they got right or wrong.

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I have recommended it to others and will continue to do so.

### Do you have any advice for other users?

The main thing I've found useful when starting a new year is to get students on board as soon as possible; don't leave them to register themselves. Get them in a room, get them registered, and get them started on it. I usually set up an assignment they can do straight away while they're in the lab so they can have hands on experience and see the benefits. Otherwise they won't use it until they have to.