sanako
Digital Language Systems

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

University of Leeds, Centre for Translation Studies

The University of Leeds has an international reputation for excellence in teaching and research and is part of the prestigious Russell Group of research-intensive universities. The University of Leeds is also a partner university of the **Directorate-Generale for Interpretation**, and enjoys close ties with **international organisations including the UN.**

During the COVID-19 lockdown in the UK, colleagues across the university have been working to secure solutions to enable the continuation of study and assessment. One of the most effective solutions adopted for teaching and assessment by the MA **Conference Interpreting and Translation Studies**, MA Business and Public Service Interpreting and Translation Studies programmes in the Centre for Translation Studies, University of Leeds, has been **Sanako** Connect. Totally on-line and compatible with most devices, only internet access is required by this **Blended Learning** system.

Sanako Connect is designed to be a module for an existing **Sanako Study 1200** system which has been in use in the interpreter training facilities in University of Leeds. With Sanako Connect, the tutors create a virtual class, which works in the same way as a conventional interpreting lab. In the virtual class, the link to the class is emailed to each student assigned to that module to comply with all current GDPR regulations. When the student clicks the link, the exercise is automatically downloaded onto their device and an icon for each student (including the student's name) appears on the tutor's screen, at which point the tutor can start the class/assessment.
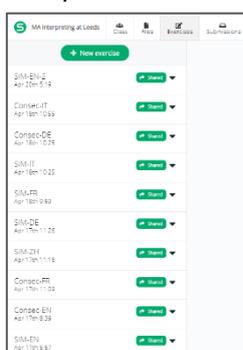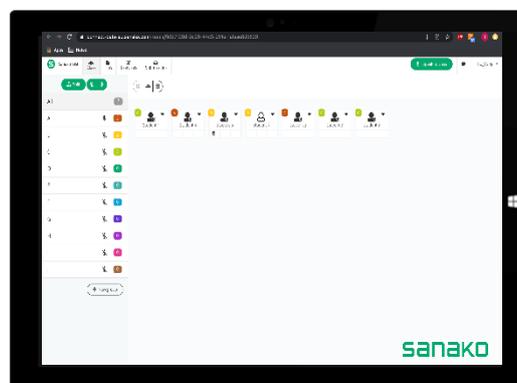
With Sanako Connect, the tutors are able to do pretty much everything that can be done with a conventional interpreting lab - monitor what each student is doing, talk to all the students, or an individual student, and even allow everyone to discuss the exercise together, beforehand and afterwards.

The exercises specific to the activity are easily inserted in the platform by the tutor, and can be downloaded automatically when students click on the link. The tutors can choose whether it is for **consecutive or simultaneous** interpreting with audio or video exercises.

During the online teaching and online assessment of interpreting modules, tutors are able to monitor individual students while they are carrying out the exercise and, when completed, their recordings are submitted to the tutor - in simultaneous exercises the recordings can be done in dual-track, allowing the student and original speech to be recorded on separate channels, as they do in the interpreting suites.

David Binns from Sanako UK has been very professional and helpful in guiding us through the application of **Sanako Connect** and answering the questions raised by the tutors and students, and coordinating with the Sanako team to enhance some configurations to meet the specific needs of **University of Leeds Centre for Translation Studies.**

Lihong Pan, Programme Manager of MA Interpreting