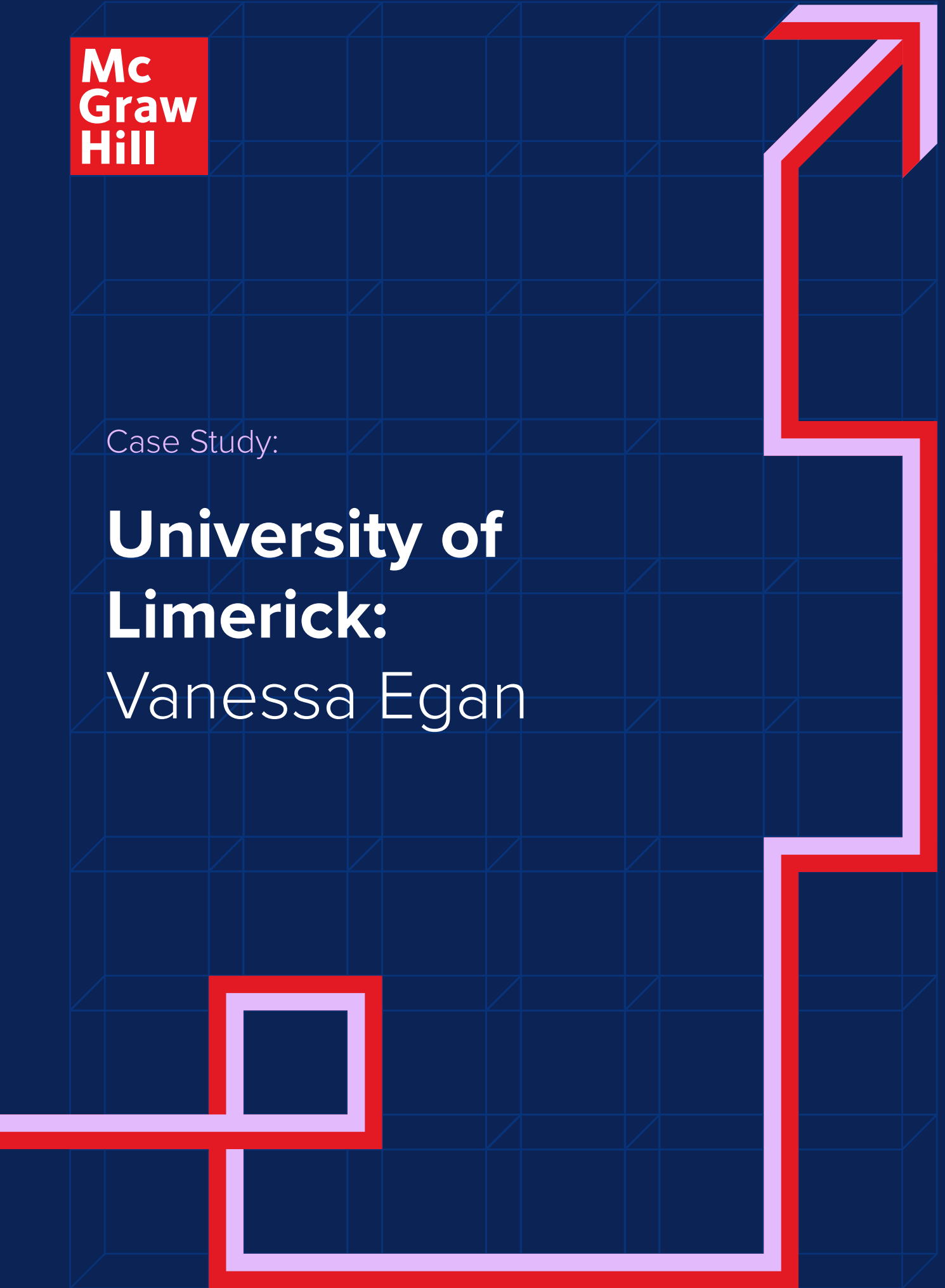




Mc
Graw
Hill

Case Study:

**University of
Limerick:**
Vanessa Egan



Case Study Facts

Course: Management Accounting

Instructor: Vanessa Egan

Digital Product in Use: Connect

Number of Students: 623

As a first-time teacher, Vanessa shared that her course leaned on an internal system at the university called Sulis which was a free platform but eventually it posed more challenges for her than solutions. Her challenges with it were two-fold. Her first challenge was the time it was taking her to create questions and the second issue leaned on accuracy. In Sulis, she had to plan and create her own set of questions and then manually enter them into the system. She considered the process to be not only time consuming but also something that could lead to human error. She felt that it was a huge task to go through the big pool of questions to check for errors.

The University & Vanessa

Established in 1972, the University of Limerick is an independent, internationally focused university with over 16,500 students and approximately 1,700 staff. It is a young, energetic and enterprising university with a proud record of innovation in education and excellence in research and scholarship.

Vanessa Egan is a teaching faculty in the department of Accounting & Finance, one of the four key departments in Kemmy Business School at the University of Limerick. Before working in this role, Vanessa worked for nearly a decade in the accounting industry.

In this case study, she shared her personal experience using McGraw Hill's digital learning platform, Connect, and how she has benefited from using it.

Challenges

- **Prior to using Connect, a lot of time was spent in creating questions.**
- **Potential for error prone due to manual inputs into the old system.**

Challenges

- **The in-built question bank proved to be a big time-saver for Vanessa.**
- **The algorithmic questions means that every student would receive a different version of the same set of questions. This also enhanced the integrity of the exam.**
- **Excellent customer service was provided by the McGraw Hill Consultant at every stage.**

Vanessa shared that she was first introduced to Connect by her predecessor. Vanessa expressed her appreciation towards McGraw Hill's Consultant and said, "I had a few different sessions with Garry on how it all works, how the SmartBook assignments work. He helped me with instructions as well as the students on how they can register. He helped me with the continuous assessment as well."

After the initial orientation with Connect, Vanessa was able to see how she could use the platform to save herself a lot of time. Vanessa expressed her satisfaction that a lot of the work that would take a few days could now be finished in a few hours using the Connect platform. For example, instead of spending a lot of time researching and writing questions herself, she could now select from a suite of questions that had already been written in Connect.

She believed the question bank in Connect to be a huge benefit and said, Additionally, Vanessa has

been able to save a lot of her time in different ways and said, “the algorithmic worksheets were brilliant, because every student would have a different version of the same cash budget. Historically, I would have had to come up with different versions of the written piece of the exam paper trying to change numbers around things, that was a huge amount of work, whereas I felt using Connect everything was just a lot easier!” She feels the algorithmic questions have really enhanced the integrity of her assessments.

Last but not the least, she shared that McGraw Hill’s Connect helped her to monitor the engagement rate of the class through its reporting functionality which gives transparency into the number of students that have engaged in different assignments each week, bolstering her overall efforts to achieve better students results.

How is Connect Used on the Course?

Vanessa mentioned that she used Connect to set assignments for the students primarily as a base to practice and assess their knowledge. She explained that she also used the platform for her exams, using content from the question bank. She explained that her students receive 30% of their final grade from the mid-term test and 70% of their final grade for the end-of-term test.

Vanessa shared some important steps that she had taken to ensure that her students were registered on the platform in time for the exams. She said, “I really have to emphasize the importance of making sure they were registered so they could do the midterm. The majority had all registered in good time and I would emphasize it in my lectures and in the tutorials as well.” She would repeatedly emphasise the importance of registration and how that could impact their grades if not done in time. She also shared a

great insight that the students had used Connect on a number of different modules in the previous years, which was a big advantage and they felt really comfortable using the platform again for her course.

What Do Students Think?

- **Students were said to be very comfortable using Connect.**
- **Students expressed satisfaction with using SmartBook assignments.**

As an instructor, Vanessa was glad to receive positive feedback from her students on the Connect platform and the assignments set up for them. She shared,

“They all seem really happy with the SmartBook assignments. The feedback from the class reps on the courses was that they really like them.”

She was pleased with the way the platform empowered her with the ability to assess and monitor her students’ learning progress and stated, “Lucky to test their knowledge every week and identify any knowledge gaps in the learning.”

Why Recommend Connect?

There were multiple factors that attributed towards Vanessa’s positive experience with Connect, including the constant support received from McGraw Hill’s Consultant. She added, “I just felt

more comfortable with the end of term exam that everything would run smoothly.” She was keen to emphasise the advantage of using Connect’s question bank which also gave her a peace of mind as she shared, “It kind of takes away the human error aspects of running an online exam because these questions have been tried and tested by several different people. I felt comfortable that nothing was going to go majorly wrong on the day.”

**For more information
on Connect please visit
mheducation.co.uk**

We are a learning science company that is driven by a vision to help unlock the full potential of each learner.

At McGraw Hill, we believe our contribution to creating a brighter future lies with our deep understanding of how learning happens and how the mind develops. Based on this, we develop methods to make the learning process more effective, and we apply all of this to creating digital and print solutions that empower educators and propel learners on a path toward success.