TUCO ONLINE

UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON

The University of Brighton's hospitality team was one of the first to embrace TUCO Online, a new eProcurement system for the HE sector. It's already radically changed the way the university operates

Ordering supplies for a busy university campus can be an arduous and frustrating task. Calling supplier after supplier takes time – and then you discover halfway through the process that one company could have given you a cheaper deal.

That's how things used to be at the University of Brighton's accommodation and hospitality services department until it switched over to TUCO Online.

The new platform – developed by eProcurement experts Procure Wizard in partnership with The University Caterers Organisation (TUCO) – enables members to access all their suppliers in one platform and streamlines the entire purchasing process.

The University of Brighton was one of the first to sign up and within weeks of going live it reaped the rewards.

'It's changed the way we work,' says Mike Hornsby, the department's systems manager.

The days of phone orders are gone and for the first time staff have full visibility over department buying data.

Mike adds: 'It gives us the ability to place an order with multiple suppliers at the same time – everything is in the same place.

'Also, we've never been able to easily compare pricing across products – that's now at our fingertips. It's invaluable.'

The overview that TUCO Online provides is particularly pertinent for a university like Brighton. It has multiple campuses spread over three towns; taking in 19 hospitality outlets involving 170 staff and serving more than 21,000 students.

'Our set up isn't a single campus or even a single town university,' Mike explains. 'We don't have the consistency built into our business that you might gain from a single site university. This system brings consistency.

'We want to allow our chefs to maintain creativity but ensure we are choosing sustainable options. We can now steer people to buy the right things for the right reasons.'

Members can access TUCO Online free of charge if using TUCO framework suppliers. Members pay for training and can add non-TUCO framework suppliers or additional Procure Wizard optional modules for an additional charge, if they wish.

The University of Brighton had been looking for a system that would allow it to take account of new legislation

ABOUT TUCO ONLINE

TUCO Online is a revolutionary web based eProcurement system that provides a solution for procurement teams to manage and control supplier trading relationships.

It's designed to improve efficiency, reduce costs, give clients complete visibility over spend and ensure full compliance.

Developed by Procure Wizard, the leading provider of eProcurement technology for the hospitality sector, the technology will streamline TUCO member's procurement processes and deliver significant business enhancements to members and suppliers.

POWERED BY

ProcureWizard

2% improvement in GP

15% waste reduction

5% increase in credits

Automates **100%** of invoices

'The ability to place orders with multiple suppliers at the same time and compare pricing across multiple products is all now at our fingertips. It's invaluable.'

- Mike Hornsby, systems manager, University of Brighton

around allergens and nutritional analysis and decided to expand that search to a purchase to pay platform for its food and beverage operation.

The TUCO Online solution was clearly 'the frontrunner', says Mike.

'It was far superior in a lot of areas and very appealing from a functionality point of view. For example, it offered better purchasing and efficiency around invoicing and invoice reconciliation.'

The system implementation plan is tailored for each university member.

'It's by far the quickest turnaround I have ever experienced and I was impressed by the way Procure Wizard approached it – they're keen to learn how they can continuously improve their own systems and tailor to the member's needs.'

The simplicity of the system has quickly won over even the most reluctant staff, he says, as they discover how much easier it is to place and track orders.

Once TUCO Online is fully integrated with the University of Brighton's finance system, Mike expects it to 'radically change the amount of work we do' and allow the team to analyse the data produced and drive even greater efficiency.

'We can drill down and capture data about our purchasing from every order we place on each university site. Previously we would have had to analyse invoices to obtain this data. Now we can spend that time looking at how and where we are buying things.'

Procure Wizard estimates that while as much as 80% of the hospitality sector uses an eProcurement system, the figure is less than 5% in the education sector. This is despite the benefits it can bring: up to 50% savings in administration costs and around 10% just through more transparent product pricing.

Mike's message to fellow universities is simple: 'I can't see why you wouldn't use it.'

If you would like to find out more, call us:

0844 801 2009

email us:

tuco@procurewizard.com

or visit

www.tuco.ac.uk/tuco-online

TUCO

The University Caterers Organisation