



# Manchester Metropolitan University boost students' grades through personalised learning in Macmillan Learning's Achieve

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**Dr Beatriz Maciá** is Senior Lecturer in Organic Chemistry at Manchester Metropolitan University. In June 2023 Beatriz won the Student Union Teaching Award 'Teacher of the Year'. She is an experienced user of Macmillan Learning products, starting more than 10 years ago.

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## About Beatriz' Courses

**Institution:** Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU)

**Course 1:** Chemistry (BSc and MChem) - year 1

**Approx number of students:** 80

**Course 2:** Pharmaceutical Chemistry (BSc and MChem) - year 1

**Approx number of students:** 80

**Goal:** Use Achieve to provide students with practice and personalised feedback. For instructors, monitor progress in a large cohort in order to identify students in need of support and specific areas of the curriculum that require more attention.

**Macmillan Learning Technology Used:** Achieve

**Standout Features:** Quizzes, Assessments with feedback





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# Using Achieve to promote independent learning in Chemistry.

Beatriz and her fellow educators faced a common challenge: Monitoring the progress of a large cohort of students efficiently. Traditional methods of marking weekly homework were unsustainable and students needed feedback to improve their understanding of complex chemistry concepts.

For Beatriz, Achieve has alleviated the burden of manually marking assignments and provided a streamlined way to monitor student progress. The weekly assignments in Achieve helped to quickly identify students in need of support and also the specific topics requiring further attention.

## Achieve motivates students to achieve their goals

Beatriz and the team aimed not only to meet her unit's learning outcomes but also to foster additional skills in her students. Achieve helped to develop the following skill sets:

- **Resilience and Perseverance:** Multiple attempts with minor penalties for wrong answers encouraged students to persist and refine their knowledge.
- **Precision:** Achieve's requirement for precise and accurate answers reinforced attention to detail, essential for chemistry.
- **Continuous Learning Habit:** Weekly assignments cultivated a daily study routine, particularly beneficial in mastering intricate topics such as organic chemistry.

“Achieve is an excellent platform that promotes active and independent learning. Setting challenging questions with unlimited numbers of attempts allows the students to persist in their activities and motivates them to achieve their goals. This type of learning shows a belief that more effort, or an alternative approach, will pay off.”

—Beatriz Maciá



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## How exactly did MMU integrate Achieve into their course?

“We believe Achieve fits our needs perfectly as it allows us to very easily set up homework related to the topics we are studying in class. Students do their homework at their own pace during the week, practising and reinforcing the material we studied in class.”

—Beatriz Maciá

### Beatriz and her colleagues employed Achieve across various aspects of their teaching:

- **Pre-Class Preparation:** They used initial quizzes to help students familiarise themselves with the platform and assess their prior knowledge.
- **Self-Study:** Students found Achieve valuable for self-study, especially during the revision period.
- **Homework Testing:** Weekly quizzes reinforced knowledge and problem-solving skills, offering a tangible incentive for students to engage.
- **Summative Assessment:** In-class tests under exam-like conditions, supported by Achieve, helped students adapt to the pressure of formal examinations.



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## Assessment that covers the whole syllabus

The team had previously used home-made Moodle quizzes but found Achieve to be superior in terms of question diversity, presentation, and professionalism.

“The Achieve assessment library contains questions that cover all the syllabus for our chemistry year 1 studies, and also includes more advanced questions for those students that want to learn further and get a stronger background for their second year studies.”

—Beatriz Maciá

### Beatriz highlighted several benefits of the Achieve platform:

- **Diverse Question Formats:** Achieve offers various question formats, including multiple-choice, free text, molecule drawing, reaction mechanisms, numerical, and chemical equation entries.
- **Instant Feedback:** The platform provides immediate feedback, enabling students to rectify mistakes and refine their understanding.
- **Adaptive Quizzes:** Customised quizzes help students focus on their unique needs during the revision period.
- **Professional Presentation:** Achieve’s questions are well-structured and visually appealing, which enhances the learning experience.





## What's next with the team at MMU?

Beatriz and her team intend to continue using Achieve in their current modes. Additionally, they plan to introduce summative “summer quizzes” to deepen students’ understanding during the summer break.

## Standout Support from the Macmillan Learning team

“Macmillan supports both staff and students in an exceptional manner. Their service support is excellent. We get instantaneous assistance from them. They go beyond expectations when designing customised questions for us on the occasions we want something specific that is not already available in the questions bank.”

—Beatriz Maciá

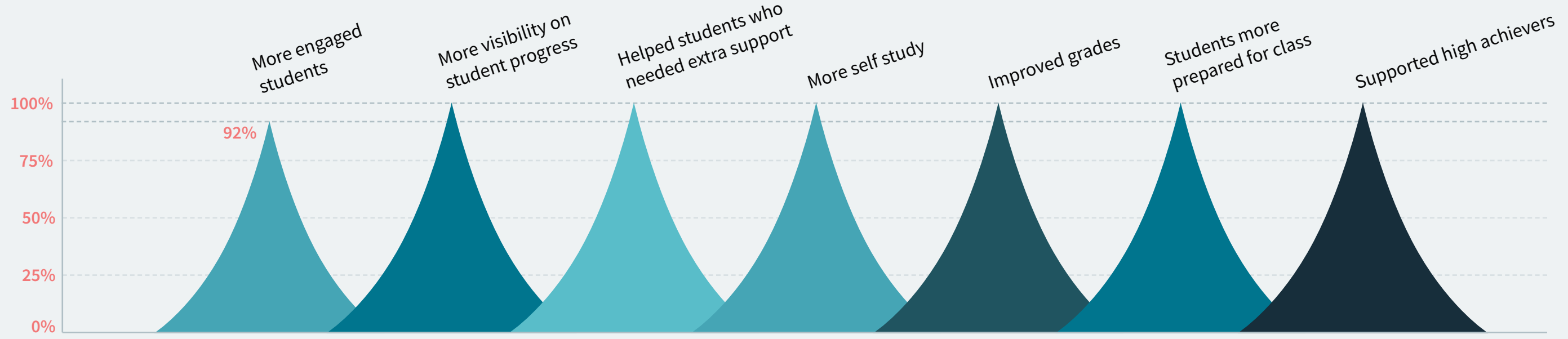
The implementation of Achieve within Beatriz’s institution was straightforward, and students found it easy to navigate. The platform integrated seamlessly with their virtual campus (Moodle), thanks to the support provided by Macmillan.

Students appreciated Achieve for its flexibility, instant feedback, and the clear connection between homework and class topics. They found the platform helpful for reinforcing their understanding.



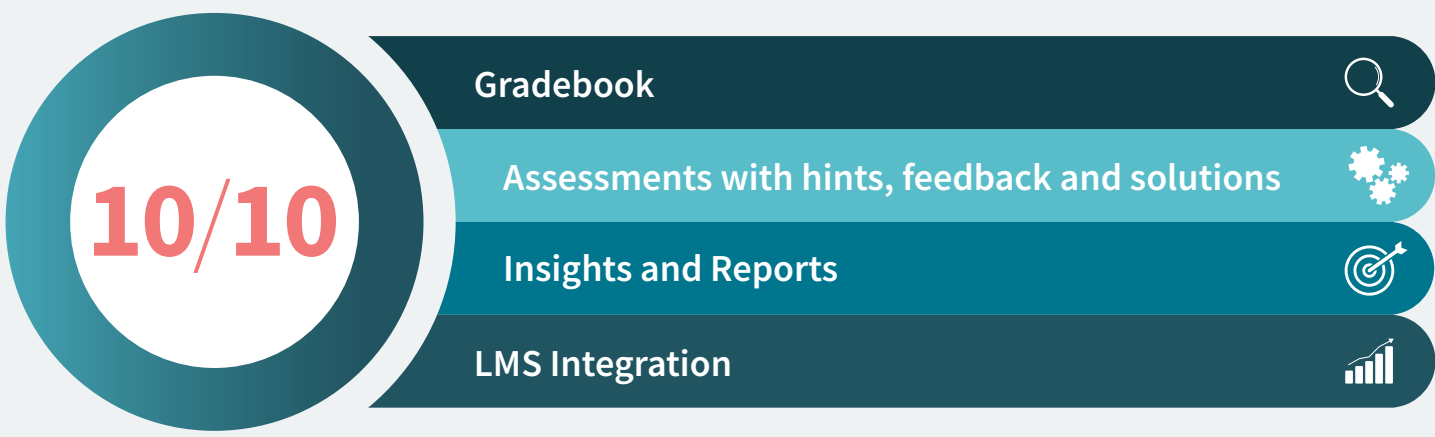
# How Beatriz felt the following attributes improved as a result of using Achieve:

Ranking attributes as a percentage

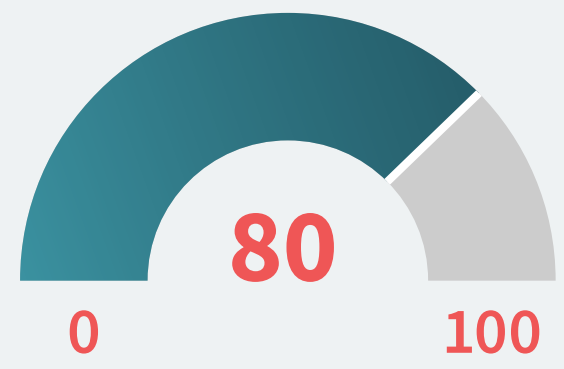


# How Achieve features helped Beatriz meet her learning outcomes:

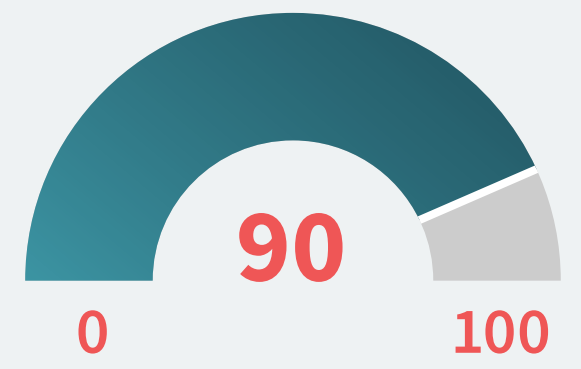
Ranking individual Achieve features on a scale of 1-10



Average Grade (%)



Student Engagement (%)



# Get Started With Achieve Today!

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If you're looking for an intuitive learning support solution to help you connect with students and foster success, look to Macmillan Learning's Achieve courseware platform. Seamlessly integrated into your campus's Virtual Learning Environment, Achieve delivers powerful media and assessment tools that give every student a voice.

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