

Igloo immersive technology for universities

Inspire, engage and immerse students with shared immersive spaces



UIT Norges arktiske univer Institutt for industriell teknologi

Igloo is the shared immersive space company We take any digital content, including immersive VR or 360° content, and put it in a shared immersive space anyone can use.

It's a bit like stepping into a huge VR headset (we like to call it Shared VR).

And, because groups of people can get inside, it's always a shared experience. So, it's perfect for collaborative teamwork and training, as well as events and experiences.

Igloo for universities

Across the world, universities, colleges and academies are deploying Igloo Shared VR in several ways and for several applications. Clients are finding that an Igloo is a more affordable and elegant solution, that is flexible, content-agnostic, easy-to-use, and easy-to-adapt.

An Igloo immersive environment has a huge range of benefits for all sorts of departments. For example, you can use an Igloo for:

- Taking virtual field trips take trips through time and space, without leaving the classroom.
- Visualising 3D designs view and adapt 3D designs and models in an immersive group setting.
- Enhancing game development a collaborative way to create and review VR gameplay.
- Presenting complex data the vast immersive screen is the perfect way to analyse, present and assimilate data.

- Running simulations and planning scenarios - prepare and train groups of people in scenarios that are too expensive or hazardous to create in real-life.
- Create repeatable experiments run, repeat and adapt experiments, and incorporate sensory stimuli, without having to go out into the field.

While some universities install Igloo shared immersive spaces in specific faculties, others make them centrepieces of their libraries and tech hubs, so they can be used by any department. Our immersive spaces are also an attention-grabber for visitors, and a selling-point for potential candidates.



Going beyond the VR headset

Many educators have incorporated virtual, augmented, or mixed reality into their teaching and research.

These technologies have been shown to improve the retention of learning. They can give students a way to safely practise dangerous (and expensive) scenarios, without risking the disastrous consequences that would ensue in the real world. And they can transport students to locations they could only dream of otherwise.

But any user of VR will have found that VR headsets come with their own limitations. Putting students in headsets isolates them from their real-life surroundings. They're cut off from their peers and lecturer. And, in a post-Covid world, many are craving that human, face-toface, interaction more than ever.

So the question becomes: how to get the benefits of immersive technology without the isolation of VR headsets? With an Igloo immersive space, you get all those benefits and can share them with whole groups.



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The Igloo's been incredibly well-received by students and staff alike. They're immediately excited because they haven't seen something like that before, and it automatically sets that frame for learning where they're curious and ready to learn.

One of the advantages is the pro applications that come with the Igloo software, like Igloo Warper, Igloo Web. They're ready-to-use, custommade applications that really allow you to get your content up in the system really quickly. The ability to create, for example, a 360° Google Slides presentation to present in the room means this is accessible to all academic staff, not just those with the skills to make 360° video."

Adam Montagu, Director of Health Simulation, University of Adelaide



Education installations

Many universities around the world are now benefiting from Igloo immersive technology, including...

Michigan State University invested in a cutting-edge Digital Scholarship Lab (DSL) within its Main Library that includes a 360° immersive visualisation room from Igloo Vision.

The Shared VR facility offers flexible applications for all disciplines in teaching, learning, and research. For example, history classes can explore architecture from around the world; interior designers can make their designs come to life, and game developers can develop and display their video games in a fully immersive environment. This was a significant project for Igloo, not just because it was our very first US-based university assignment, but also because it features an array of the latest generation laser projectors, equipped with specialised ultra-short throw lenses. This brings all the benefits of laser projectors (image quality, blendability, reliability, etc) in a relatively confined space, with no shadowing and no loss of image quality.



In 2020, The University of Adelaide installed an Immersion Room at its Adelaide Health Simulation facility.

The University of Adelaide's first use of its Igloo-powered Immersion Room came with dealing with COVID-19. Thanks to Igloo's compatibility with Zoom, it was able to create a virtual classroom environment. The staff could show medical procedures on a mannequin. Around them, the 360° screen was split into multiple windows for presentations, live polls, and a montage of the students' faces lifesized. As a result, everyone could get a real sense of presence and interaction.

It will also be used for:

- Transporting students to faraway
 healthcare facilities with 360° video
- Taking students through medical procedures from patient consent to the follow-up
- Giving students experience of the journeys of patients dealing with dementia



We retrofitted a 7-metre x 10-metre room into an Igloo immersive workspace with floor projection and surround sound. Every wall and floor can display immersive content to help users to better visualise and engage with their designs and data with a strip along the middle to create a viewing and meeting platform.

UiT is investigating multiple uses for its Igloo:

- Holding product and design reviews or meetings for Departments of Engineering, where remote colleagues can join in and still share the experience
- Creating 3D and VR content with Unity and Unreal Engine thanks to Igloo's in-built plugins for game engines
- Education and Training to control
 processes and machines with digital twins
- Simulating an Incident Room in the case of emergencies in the Arctic - for example, flying a drone with a 360° camera to live stream into the Igloo to search for lost/ injured people
- Delivering medical training that simulates hospital wards or accident sites that would otherwise be difficult to access
- Showing panoramic and 360° footage, whether pairing panoramic landscapes with animated floor projection to create a sense of motion or digital twinning 360° footage from a laboratory

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For more information

Igloo Vision is the shared immersive space company

From bases in the UK, USA, Canada and Australia, we work with clients worldwide, and have partnered with many universities and research establishments, including Munster Technological University, Ryerson University, Mid Sweden University, Michigan State University, Deakin University and University of Brighton. To find out more, visit us at www.igloovision.com

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