

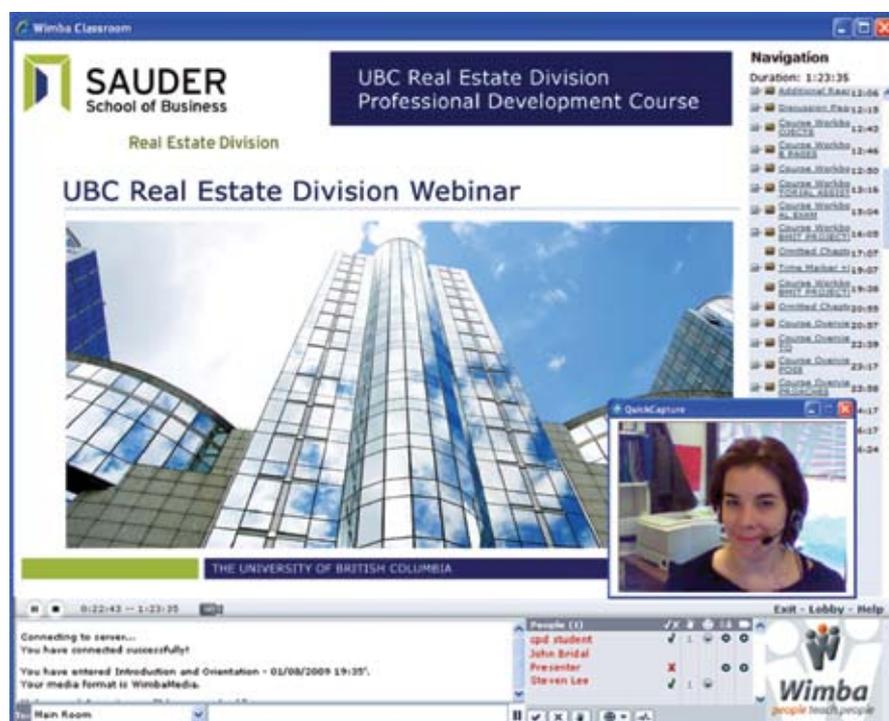
UBC webinars bring the classroom to you

The UBC Real Estate Division (RED) has recently added live online instruction, or 'webinars,' to its suite of distance education offerings. Over the past year, RED has provided live online classroom presentations for select AIC credit courses, an addition that has met with unanimous approval from students. In 2009, we expanded live online classroom delivery into further AIC credit courses and also developed a series of webinars for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) short courses.

The 'virtual' classroom

RED has more than 20 years of success in its distance education course delivery model. This success is based on a delivery platform that works well in real estate's unique environment: a geographically-dispersed student population that requires a number of highly specialized courses. With insufficient numbers of students in most Canadian centres to regularly offer AIC courses face-to-face, this distance education model has provided a useful and accessible means of learning. Despite the success of our delivery model, we recognize these successes come at a cost. Learners all have unique learning styles and we know that our current text-based distance education model is not always ideal for everyone. We also know that a live classroom can offer a rich learning experience that is difficult to duplicate at a distance, losing both the spontaneity of 'real-time' classroom discussion and the camaraderie of working alongside peers.

The live online classroom offers a means to regain many of the benefits of a face-to-face classroom, while still retaining the advantages of distance education. Students see and hear a live instructor, who can elaborate on topics



beyond the course materials and answer questions in 'real time.' Classroom discussions may be fostered, either by audio or text 'chat.' Students can make connections, professionally and socially, that go beyond the course and program, all while retaining the flexibility of attending from home or office, with no travel time or expense, and available immediately across Canada or internationally.

Horizon Wimba webinars

UBC's E-Learning Centre selected Horizon Wimba from the many available 'online classroom' software packages. Wimba's chief benefit is that it can do all that is necessary to create an online classroom, but purposely does not do a whole lot more. Wimba's simplicity means it is easy to set-up, intuitive to learn,

and has low demands in terms of computer requirements. It can also operate with slow connection speeds (i.e., for dial-up access in rural areas).

The Wimba online classroom offers the following features:

Instructors can speak over the computer, with an accompanying PowerPoint slide presentation.

Students can listen over their computer speakers or headphones, or may dial-in to the classroom teleconference phone line.

Students can ask questions using their computer's microphone or with the text 'chat' window. Students can also select icons to virtually raise their hands, tell the instructor to speed up or slow down, applaud, or laugh at a joke.

The instructor can provide online quizzes or polls, with student replies immediately tallied and displayed for discussion purposes.

Wimba offers further advanced features, but RED uses these sparingly. In our experience with online classrooms, we have found the more complex the application, the higher the computing power and bandwidth necessary, and the greater likelihood of technical problems. When working with Wimba, a ‘keep it simple’ approach seems to work well. Most webinar students have had

no difficulties in registering, setting up, and attending Wimba sessions.

UBC’s webinar CPD offerings

RED is now offering webinars in select AIC credit courses and Continuing Professional Development courses. The first CPD webinars took place on February 6 and March 6, both at 8am-10 am Pacific time. These first courses focused on *IFRS*, machinery and equipment valuation, and adjustment support in the direct comparison approach.

On an ongoing basis, CPD webinars will be offered on the first Friday morning of each month, again from 8am-10am Pacific time. By setting aside the same time each month, students can plan their CPD training well in advance. Upcoming topics include highest and best use analysis, appraisal review, and green issues in residential and commercial properties.

For more information on CPD offerings, both webinar and self-study courses, please visit: www.realestate.ubc.ca/cpd

We look forward to seeing you online soon! 🇨🇦



Webinar Dates 8am-10am Pacific Time 11am-1pm Eastern Time	Course Title	Price	CPD Credits
April 3, 2009	CPD 105: Highest and Best Use Analysis	\$95	4
April 3, 2009	CPD 125: Green Value – Valuing Sustainable Commercial Buildings	\$130	7
May 1, 2009	CPD 126: Getting to Green – Energy Efficient and Sustainable Housing	\$130	7
May 1, 2009	CPD 115: Appraisal Review	\$130	7