



ANALYTICS

**THOMAS
MORE**

Thomas More and EpicData work with the Qlik Academic Program to empower students with data skills for real-world impact



About Thomas More University and EpicData

Thomas More University is the largest university of applied sciences in the Flanders region of Belgium, with over 22,000 students, staff members and researchers. The university is committed to delivering practical, experience-based learning using hands-on methodologies and real-world projects.

The university collaborates with the Qlik Academic Program to promote and develop data literacy among students. Its partnership with EpicData, a data consultancy and Qlik partner based in Kontich, Belgium, also gives students the opportunity to develop the skills acquired through the Qlik Academic Program and further build their understanding of how data and analytics can be applied to real-world use cases.

“It didn’t take long to get up to speed and start working on my project, especially with the help of the Qlik Academic Program and the wider Qlik community.”

Lwam Teklay, Data Consultant, EpicData



Customer Name

Thomas More University

Industry

Public Sector

Geography

Belgium

Challenges

- Give students a solid grounding in data and analytics
- Provide an easy-to-use, interactive data platform
- Complement theoretical learning with hands-on experience

Solution

Thomas More University works with the Qlik Academic Program and industry partners such as EpicData to educate, enable and inspire students.

Results

- Qlik’s ease of use encourages students to explore and learn more
- Projects and internships provide invaluable hands-on opportunities
- Students move into the world of work with data knowledge and experience

An opportunity to gain real-world experience

Lwam Teklay realized at a young age that IT would be the key to her future. She spent three years studying at the Mekelle Institute of Technology in Ethiopia, building a strong set of foundational skills that eventually led to an opportunity to study applied computer science at Thomas More University in Belgium.

With Thomas More's focus on applied sciences, a dynamic and collaborative learning environment and strong links to industry and regional employers, Teklay saw an opportunity to complement her solid technical skills with practical applications and real-world experience.

"I came to Belgium through the EU's Erasmus+ program and ended up staying and studying applied computer science, majoring in AI," Teklay explains. "The program covers a range of subject areas, including data visualization and business intelligence, which is where I first discovered Qlik."

"Data visualization is becoming increasingly important," adds Ellen Torfs, Data Visualization and BI Project Lecturer at Thomas More University. "Even students looking to go into areas such as software development and applications need a solid understanding of how to visualize and present data."

Teklay had already developed a strong understanding of analytics and the effective presentation of data and insights through her experience with Python and SQL.

"You can use libraries in Python to visualize data and build charts and things like that but then you have to code it in," she says. "You need a specific set of skills before you can interact with the data in any meaningful way and it's not something that everyone can handle intuitively."

Fortunately for Teklay, Thomas More University had already identified this challenge and, several years earlier, introduced Qlik as a solution.

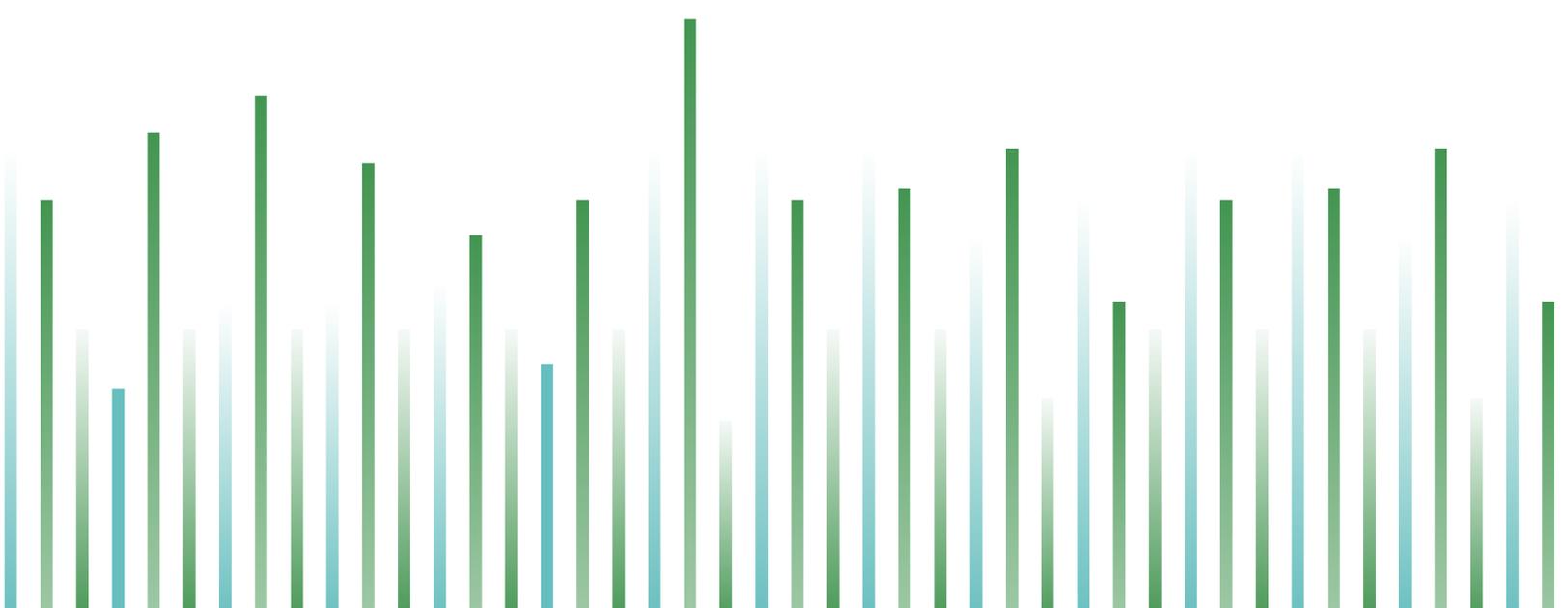
Combining theory with hands-on experience

Teklay's Qlik journey began in the second year of her studies at Thomas More with the data visualization module that Torfs had based around the Qlik Academic Program. Through the Qlik Academic Program, educators and students receive free, full year access to Qlik software, training and other learning resources.

"It's something all of our 140 IT students take and it's important to go beyond the theory," she notes. "You need a tool that's easy to learn and can make even the more complex elements of the subject easy to understand."

At Thomas More, this means combining Qlik's learning materials with hands-on experience, which led to Teklay's first project focused on analyzing flight data from Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport.

"We had to build a report with at least five sheets," Teklay recalls. "As someone who likes to travel, I don't like it when flights are canceled or delayed, so I focused on the number of delays and their causes over three months. It was a great exercise in building a story and telling it through Qlik's visuals."





It was also an important demonstration of how working with data didn't have to involve complex back-end coding.

"My first impression of Qlik was that it was so easy to use," Teklay says. "It didn't take long to get up to speed and start working on my project, especially with the help of the Qlik Academic Program and the Qlik community."

Harnessing seamless capabilities

Teklay's journey continued the following academic year when she advanced to using Qlik as a complete business intelligence tool. It was then that she came across EpicData, a local long-standing Qlik partner, and an exciting opportunity to build her Qlik experience with a more complex project during an internship with the business.

"It was a project called Sensor to Savior," Teklay explains. "I took open-source data generated by the Catalan Water Agency and combined it with additional Kaggle datasets to develop a dynamic analysis of Catalonia's water resources."

Teklay enriched the dataset further with meteorological data and built two main interactive dashboards. A General Audience View offers user-friendly explanations of how environmental factors affect Catalonia's water systems and supply, while an Operational View provides near-real-time data on water management systems for more technical users.

"I also used Qlik AutoML[®] to integrate some predictive functions into the dashboards," Teklay adds. "As an end-to-end platform, I could use Qlik to achieve all my main objectives without having to use any other tools. That seamless capability was essential to the project's success."

Demonstrating the possibilities

Sensor to Savior attracted attention from a water treatment operator in Belgium and Teklay is exploring opportunities to share the project with government bodies.

"It really demonstrates the power of data and how it can help us understand challenges in areas like water management and make better decisions," Teklay says. "It shows what's possible when you make data available and use it the right way."

The project also led to a permanent job offer for Teklay at EpicData, where she is now a full-time data consultant. For Frédéric Vissers, Data and Analytics Competence Lead and Qlik Consultant at EpicData, Thomas More's implementation of the Qlik Academic Program is central to Teklay's success.

"It's great that students can focus on their preferences," he notes. "The Qlik Academic Program allows students to become seasoned data professionals who know where their strengths are, whether it's at the front-end with the analysis or the back-end working on data modeling, scripts and pipelines."

For Teklay, working at EpicData is a new opportunity to broaden her scope further and develop yet more Qlik skills and capabilities.

“I want to help clients make better use of their data and drive real impact, and I’m looking forward to working on diverse projects and staying at the forefront of new technologies,” she says. “As AI continues to shape the industry, I want to keep learning and deliver data-driven solutions that help our clients make smarter decisions.”

**Creating a data-literate world,
one student at a time**

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About Qlik

Qlik transforms complex data landscapes into actionable insights, driving strategic business outcomes. Serving over 40,000 global customers, our portfolio leverages advanced, enterprise-grade AI/ML and pervasive data quality. We excel in data integration and governance, offering comprehensive solutions that work with diverse data sources. Intuitive and real-time analytics from Qlik uncover hidden patterns, empowering teams to address complex challenges and seize new opportunities. Our AI/ML tools, both practical and scalable, lead to better decisions, faster. As strategic partners, our platform-agnostic technology and expertise make our customers more competitive.

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