CASE STUDY

# Innovation in Campus Management

Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture

| 6 | 1,000 | 100% | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|
| MONTHS | USERS | ON TIME | MODULES |

In six months, Pakistan's leading art and design schools retired three decades of spreadsheets, paper files and an unsupported legacy application — and replaced them with a single platform that now runs admissions, academics, examinations, finance, HR and payroll for the entire institution.

**Every module in the first release went live on the date it was promised. This is how it was done.**



THE SCHOOL

# A thirty-five-year-old institution, outgrowing its own systems

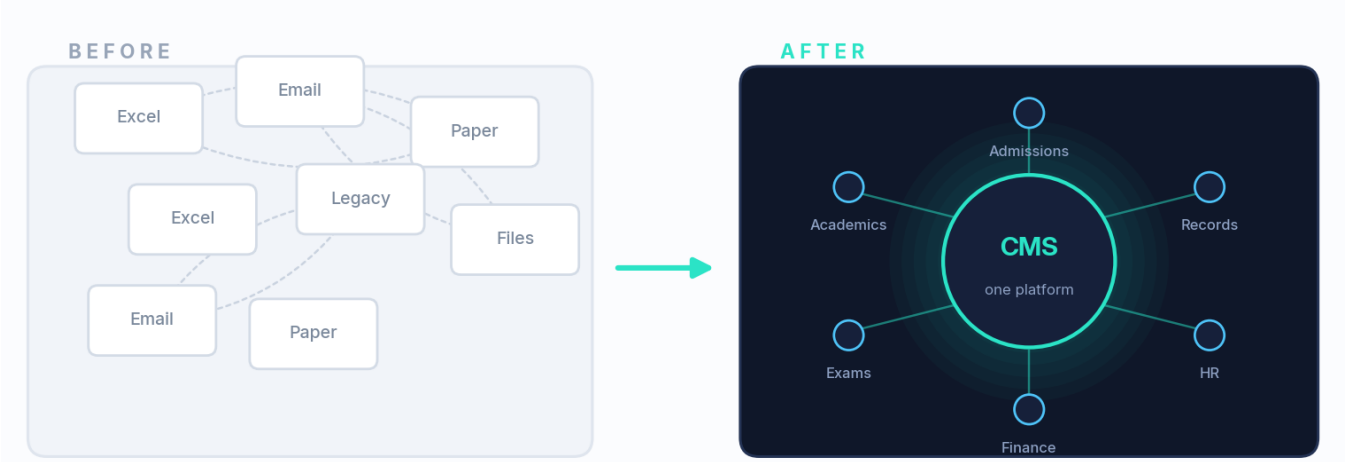
Founded in 1990 to teach art, design and architecture and to build a culture of excellence in research and innovation, the Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture has graduated more than thirty cohorts. Today it teaches roughly 800 students through 150 faculty and 50 staff, across ten academic areas.

## Why change was unavoidable

Admissions and academics at IVS ran by hand. Information was captured in spreadsheets and moved around campus by email. That worked when the school was small. It stopped working as course offerings multiplied, the student body grew and the faculty expanded.

By mid-2025 the position was no longer tenable. Admissions, attendance, grading, examinations, end-of-term processing, student communication and fee management were all manual. There was no single view of a student. Faculty could not plan courses from reliable data. Administration was absorbed in paperwork that added nothing to the academic mission.

**A modern Campus Management System was not a technology upgrade. It was a precondition for the school to function efficiently and to grow.**



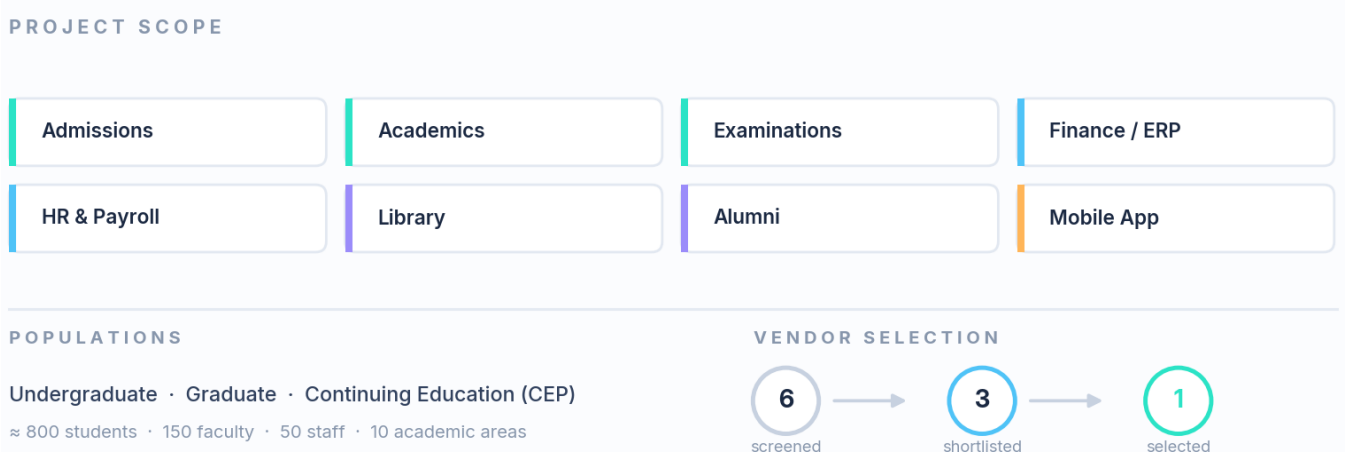

*From scattered departmental files to one governed system of record.*

APPROACH

# What we set out to build

Scope was set from prior experience and from where the school needed to be — not only from where it was:

- **Modules.** Admissions; Academics, covering attendance, grading and examinations; Financial Management; Library; Alumni; and a mobile app for faculty and students.
- **Populations.** Four-year undergraduate and master's programs, alongside the Continuing Education Program (CEP).
- **An integrated ERP** to replace the legacy financial system, payroll and HR.




## Governance first

IVS formed a project team drawn from IT, the Registrar's office, CEP, Finance and HR — each lead personally accountable for their own area's requirements and acceptance. Ownership sat with the people who would live with the result.

## Choosing the platform

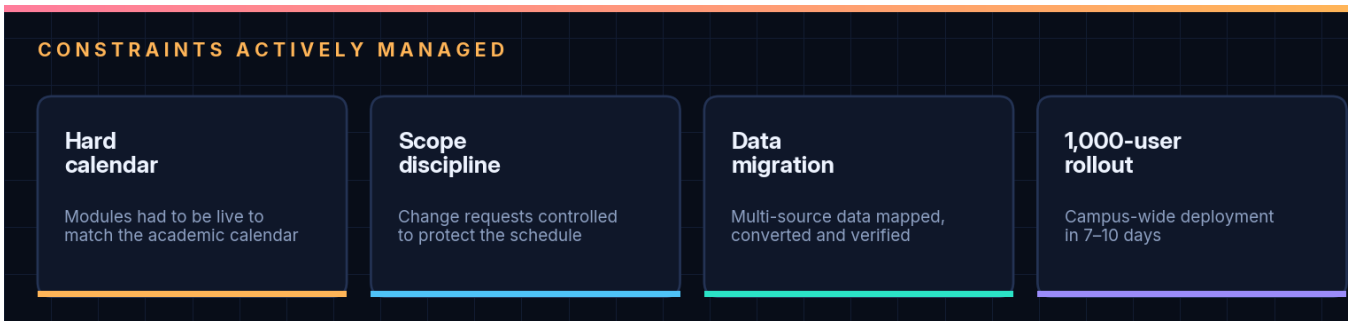
The local market offers several campus management products with the capability IVS required. Six were screened against documented requirements; three were shortlisted for detailed evaluation. The outcome was unambiguous. One product offered every module IVS needed, committed to the July go-live, priced competitively, and showed the flexibility to accommodate IVS-specific processes.

RISK

# The constraints we had to beat

This project carried a real risk of failure. The constraints were named at the outset and managed actively rather than discovered late:

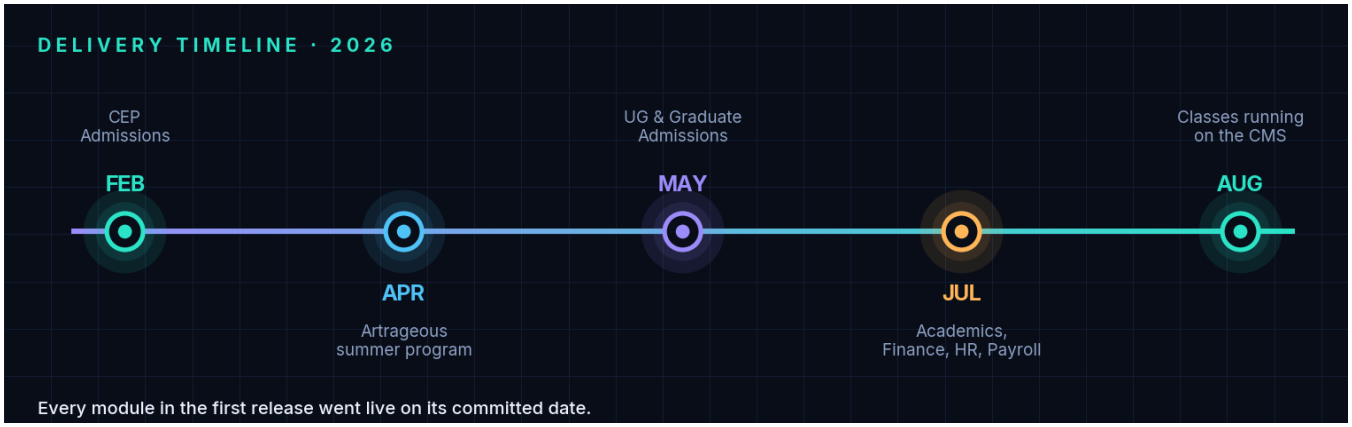
- **Immovable dates.** Undergraduate and graduate admissions and academics had to be live in May and July respectively to meet the academic calendar. Those dates could not move.
- **The same logic for CEP.** CEP admissions and academics carried identical calendar constraints, with less pressure on the project team.
- **Scope control.** On a schedule this tight, discipline over scope and change requests was what decided whether the dates held.
- **Process and training.** Every as-is process — admission, attendance, grading — had to be analyzed, mapped to the new system, and taught to faculty and staff.
- **Data migration.** Data had to be collected from multiple sources, converted to the destination format, uploaded and verified ahead of each UAT date. There was no room to do it twice.
- **Campus-wide rollout.** The system had to reach about a thousand faculty, students and staff inside 7–10 days, smoothly and with minimal disruption.




*None of these were surprises on the day. Each was identified before work began and carried an owner and a mitigation from the start — which is the difference between a risk register and a post-mortem.*

DELIVERY

# Six months, three phases, zero missed dates




Delivery ran in three phases, each anchored to a hard date in the academic and financial calendar:

- CEP admissions went live in **February**; the Artrageous summer program followed in **April**, as planned.
- Undergraduate and graduate admissions went live in **May**, with the academics module live in **July**.
- Classes began running on the CMS in **August**, at the start of the semester.
- Finance, HR, payroll and the ERP were delivered **in parallel** with the above.

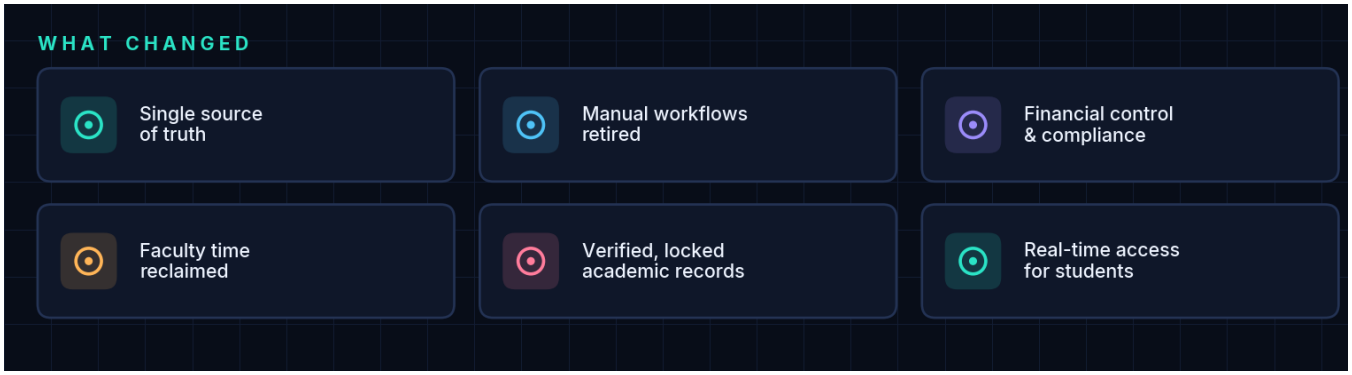
| 6 | ~1,000 | 8 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|
| months from first go-live to full operation | students, faculty and staff on one system | modules delivered or under way | missed go-live dates in release one |

IVS replaced three decades of spreadsheets, paper files and an unsupported legacy application with a single platform that now runs admissions, academics, examinations, finance, HR and payroll for the entire institution.

IMPACT

# What changed

Delivering on time and on budget established credibility. The lasting value came from solving core business problems and measurably improving how the institution operates.



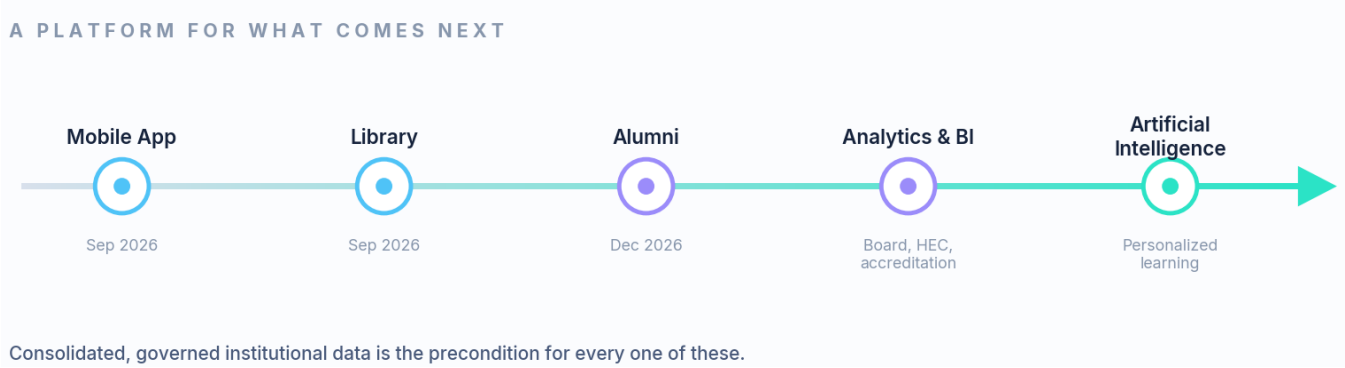

- **A single source of truth.** Admissions, academics, examinations, student records, finance, HR and alumni data now live on one platform instead of scattered spreadsheets, email threads and departmental files.
- **Manual workflows retired.** Application intake, fee challans, payment tracking and marks entry depended on paper forms, manual entry and Excel trackers. All are now structured, automated workflows.
- **Stronger financial control and compliance.** The finance module produces non-profit standard Income and Expenditure statements and Balance Sheets at the click of a button. Rekeying and reconciling data across systems has been eliminated.
- **Faculty time reclaimed.** Faculty no longer spend hours compiling results in Excel or maintaining a separate grading sheet for every class. Grades are entered once and flow automatically to students and the academic office.
- **Verified, authenticated records.** Because grading is entered directly into the CMS and then locked by the academic office, results carry a level of authentication and consistency a spreadsheet could never guarantee — protecting both the student and the institution.
- **Real-time access for students.** Students see their attendance record, grades, fee ledger and class announcements on their own portal, rather than waiting for a verbal update, a printed voucher or an emailed result.
- **Transparency and accountability.** Role-based access control and audit logs make every action attributable and traceable. Validation and duplicate detection have reduced errors such as incorrect fee balances and mismatched academic histories.

- **A better experience end to end.** Students have direct access, so faculty no longer post the same information twice. Combined with a single admission-to-enrollment journey, a disjointed multi-channel experience has become one consistent interface.

WHAT COMES NEXT

# A platform, not a project

With core institutional data consolidated, IVS now has a foundation for scale, analytics, alumni engagement, mobile services and AI-enabled capability.




- **Built to scale.** Today's roughly 1,000 users — some 800 students, 150 faculty and 50 staff — are a fraction of the platform's capacity. IVS can expand course offerings across undergraduate, graduate, CEP diploma and short-course populations, and add students, faculty and campus sites, without a step change in staff or system cost.
- **Alumni engagement.** The alumni module, targeted for December 2026, turns a student record into a standing relationship the day a student graduates — and forms a natural data bridge to IVS's resource mobilization work. Alumni are, after all, the school's largest prospective donor pool.
- **Institutional analytics.** With academic, admissions and financial data in one place, the platform's BI and dashboard capability becomes the evidence base for strategic planning, Board reporting, accreditation submissions and HEC compliance — work that today depends on manually assembled reports.
- **Artificial intelligence.** The IVS technology roadmap names AI as a differentiator for the decade ahead: personalized learning, new course development, administrative support. A clean, structured, governed dataset is the precondition for all of it. The CMS provides exactly that.
- **The mobile app as a service channel.** Beyond admissions and records, the mobile app, targeted for September 2026, is a channel IVS can extend to events, community and alumni engagement, notifications, and more; all without a separate platform investment.

## In their own words

Faculty and staff on living with the new system

*“The CMS seems like a very efficient system, and using it was pretty straightforward.”*

**HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR DESIGN**

*“The new CMS is a positive step towards streamlining academic and administrative processes at IVS. From an academic and departmental perspective, it has the potential to improve communication, accessibility of information, and overall efficiency. Our experience with the system so far has been flawless. The interface is intuitive, self-explanatory and simple to use, requiring little to no training for users to navigate and understand its functionality.”*

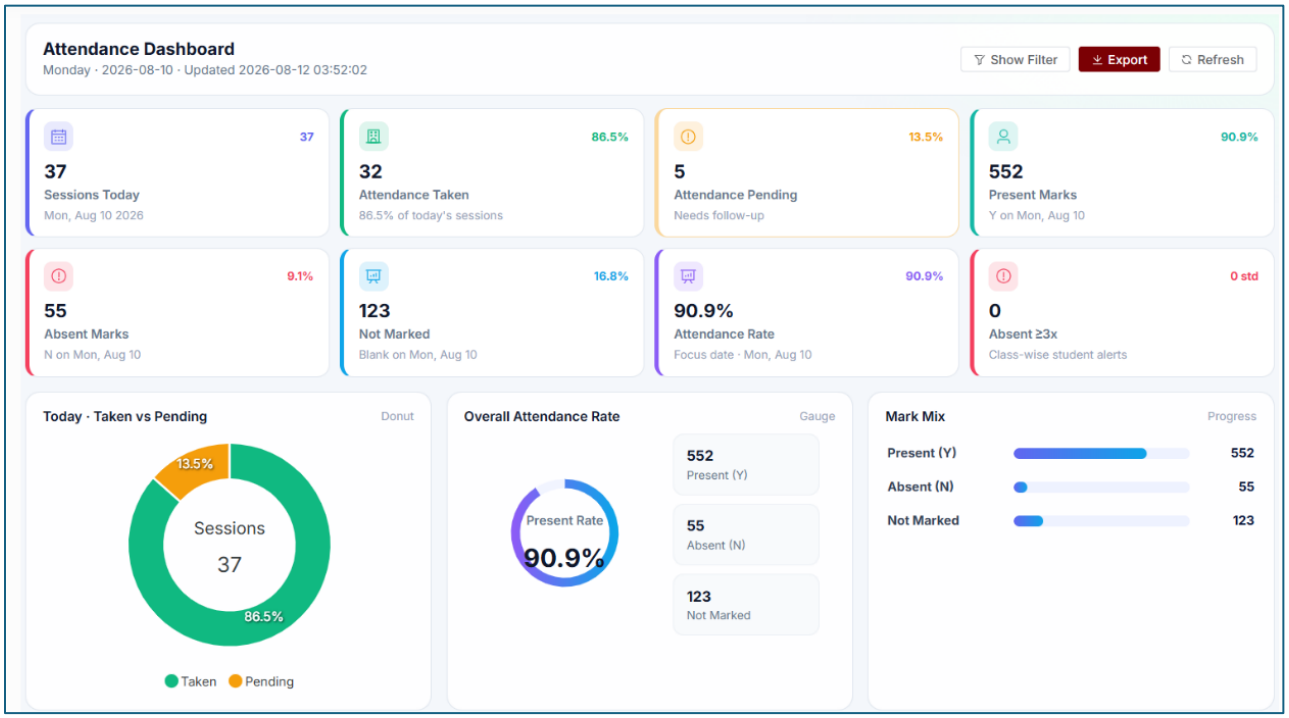
**HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF FINE ART**

*“Our admissions are now streamlined and organized on a single platform. Customer support has been incredibly helpful and cooperative throughout the transition.”*

**PROGRAM AND INFORMATION OFFICER**

*“Tracking payments has become significantly easier. The ability to track payments batch-wise saves a lot of time and improves our financial management efficiency.”*

**ACCOUNTS OFFICER, CEP**




*Attendance dashboard*

IN CONCLUSION

# What it adds up to

The CMS has changed how IVS is experienced by the people it serves. The Registrar uploads all semester data at the start of term, so students and faculty find everything in one place. Faculty have a single front end for entering data and for viewing attendance and grades. Students see their attendance and grades the moment they are entered, rather than waiting for a verbal update or a printed sheet.

Externally, the effect is just as direct. Applicants, partners and prospective donors now encounter an institution that operates as a modern, technically capable school — a reputational asset for a thirty-five-year-old art and design institution competing for students and for support.

**The system is live. The harder work — using the data it now holds — begins here.**

