



TutorVista provides online homework help, test prep

By Chris Davies

TutorVista is not like any other tutoring company. If you have question about a math problem, or chemistry assignment that keeps eluding you, they are the people to call. However, the person on the other end of the phone answering your question is doing so from more than 7500 miles away.

The latest in overseas outsourcing, this service allows students to speak with a tutor over the Internet to obtain help in more than 15 categories. Besides homework help, they offer preparation for more than 10 exams. The company's vision, according to their Web site, is to "Use global educational resources, the internet and technology to help students worldwide achieve their education goals."

"TutorVista.com is the premier online destination for affordable one-on-one education - anytime, anywhere and in any subject. Students can access our service from the convenience of their home or school," Bedi Philips, a public relations specialist, said. "They use our comprehensive and thorough lessons and question bank to master any subject and have access to a live tutor around the clock. TutorVista helps students excel in school and in competitive examinations," Philips added.

Some students are weary of TutorVista. "Tutoring is what you put into it, I don't think that talking over the Internet with a tutor would be a good way to communicate. How could you explain a problem very well that had visuals in it? I don't think it would be a good system," Josh Kelly, freshman broadcast journalism major, said. According to a May 2007 article in Fortune magazine, no Indian company has built a successful consumer services company. This means TutorVista is exploring entirely new ground, in consumer service as well as where academic service companies are concerned. As of October 31 TutorVista had more than 10,000 customers in the United States and Great Britain. The company offers monthly plans opposed to hourly plans, used by most private tutors. By offering \$100 a month for tutoring, the company feels as though they can provide a similar, if not better, system than traditional tutors. The cost of tutoring is for any and all of the categories offered by the company, not a single one.

Most of TutorVista's employees are former professors or experts in their respective field. Many of who, by working for the company, are working with computers for the first time in their lives. Each tutor goes through a training and certification process to ensure his or her abilities and competency.

Recently, TutorVista combined forces with the Manipal Education Group. Manipal

University was the first private institute to be recognized as a "Deemed University" by the government of India.

This is the third such investment that the company has seen in the past year and a half, amassing more than \$15 million for the company.