

Application for learning technology support for development of EBL in online teaching, learning or assessment

This application should be returned electronically to ceeb@manchester.ac.uk by 29th May 2009.

1. **Project title:** Use of wiki's for collaborative enquiry based learning in Master's level Project Management education
2. **Unit/programme of study/student group to which project relates:** MSc in Management of Projects, Project Finance Unit MACE 60023, Delivered Semester 1 2009/2010
3. **Number of Students:** Estimated at 150 for 2009/2010
4. **Faculty/School/Department:** EPS/School of MACE/Project Management Group
5. **Project team** (Put team leader's name first, with contact details):

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Mubeena Rana Programme Administrator MSc in Management of Projects

Mark Jasper, EPS Faculty E-learning team

6. **Summary of proposal** (Include where possible your aims, objectives and anticipated outcomes – max. 150 words):

The MSc in the Management of Projects is a successful full time postgraduate programme in MACE which attracts up to 200 students per year. The Project Finance unit is a popular semester 1 optional unit attracting about 150 students per year. The aim of the course unit is to introduce students to the field of project finance, the typical projects for which project finance is used, how to structure projects, how to raise finance and how to manage the project risks. The subject can be quite theoretical and so formal didactic teaching is supplemented by case study analysis to apply the concepts of project finance to real life projects.

To date the assessment process has involved an individual essay analysis of a project case study selected by the lecturer.

The aim of this project is to replace this individual coursework with collaborative group working involving the creation of wiki's by small groups of students. This use of web2.0 tools will build on the lecturer's experience of assessing undergraduates by means of collaborative group based posters. Students will be asked to work in groups of 5 to develop a wiki on a real project finance case study.

The objectives are to

1. Design an appropriate enquiry based methodology for the coursework
2. Deliver the wiki based coursework to the student cohort in semester 1 2009/2010
3. Evaluate the outcome of the project in terms of student feedback and improved learning experience
4. Disseminate the results of the project both internally at The University of Manchester and externally in the appropriate peer reviewed Teaching and Learning Journals

The outcomes of the project will include

- enhanced student learning as measured by both standard student feedback questionnaires and a custom designed student survey
- improved group working and cohort cohesion on a large MSc programme
- generation of new project finance course content for future student cohorts
- a tested pilot study of the use of wiki's prior to roll-out across other units/programmes

7. Benefits (identify the possible benefits e.g. in terms of student learning. – max. 150 words):

The benefits of the project are as follows:

- Enhancement of student learning by adopting enquiry based e-learning – allowing students to formulate their own research topics and convert that research into a useful output. “The central premise of wiki construction is the belief in the shared construction of knowledge and focus on encouraging learner centred content rather than teacher generated content”(Mason and Rennie 2008). Through the development of the wiki's students will learn to apply the theoretical framework of project finance to real life project case studies.
- Development of the students' ability to differentiate and make own judgements regarding the accuracy of information, as they will be required to discuss and filter information before adding it to the wiki
- Encouragement of group work and collaborative learning early in the MSc in Management of Projects programme
- Generation of new course content for future student cohorts (the wiki's will be linked to the unit Blackboard site and will form a key part of the knowledge repository for future cohorts of students)
- Act as a pilot study prior to roll out across other units/programmes in MACE

8. Project action plan (Indicate stages in implementation. - max. 50 words):

1. Meet with the project team to confirm the project aims, objectives and deliverables (DONE)
2. Design the coursework methodology
3. Organise the logistics (timeline of project, size of groups, selection of topics by groups, tutorials, and hand in dates)
4. Select software tool to be used
5. Prepare coursework material (Coursework Brief, Guidelines on Wiki development etc)
6. Brief student cohort in week 1 of Semester 1 2009/2010
7. Hold training for student cohort
8. Students carry out the wiki based coursework
9. Decide on the dissemination strategy for the project outcomes (internal at UoM and external in peer reviewed Teaching and Learning Journals)

9. Evaluation (Please provide us with a brief description of the mechanism you intend to use for evaluating the achieved outcomes – max. 150 words):

There are a number of mechanisms that will be used to evaluate the success of the project

1. Gain understanding of cohort familiarity with wiki's at start of the unit
2. Comparison of student feedback scores from previous year
3. The completion of a bespoke questionnaire by the cohort to establish the extent to

which the use of wiki's has enhanced the student learning experience

4. Monitoring of the use of the student generated wiki's by the 2010/2011 cohort of students

10. Other CEEBL support requested – additional support from CEEBL (e.g. preparing students for EBL, financial, Student Intern support, facilitation training, evaluation and research – max. 150 words):

- Support from EPS e learning technologist in designing the coursework methodology, advising on selection of wiki tool, and writing the Guidelines on Wiki Development.
- Support from EPS e learning technologist to prepare training materials for student cohort at start of semester (Total support from EPS e learning team is 70hours)
- Use of CEEBL offices for training sessions and group tutorial sessions
- Pedagogic support from CEEBL in writing of journal paper to disseminate project
- Funding for use of GTA's to hold tutorials on coursework – 5 GTA's for 10 hours each @£15/hr =£750

References

Mason, R. and F. Rennie (2008). E-Learning and Social Networking Handbook: Resources for Higher Education, Routledge (Taylor and Francis Group).