

Project Name: Foundation Degree in Computing

Project Manager: Derek Street

Document Version: One

Document Distribution:

Name	Location	Responsibility	Action/Information
Nino Meusz	Evesham College	College Project Manager	Prepare application
Sue Cuthbert	UoW	HE Project Manager	For approval
Debbie Lambert	HWLLN	LLN Manager	For approval
Bob Parker	HWLLN	Education Partnership Manager	For information

1 Background

We currently have 32 year One National Diploma students on our level 3 National Diploma ITP qualification and a recent straw poll indicates that 20+ would be willing to study with us at HE level on a foundation degree programme.

We also have three feeder schools in the area that are likely to bolster the recruitment in this area. In the past this has been a good recruitment field for our HND in Computing qualification.

We are also currently looking to develop a foundation degree in E-Media with WCT and NEWC, which will feed into our national diploma in E-Media, however at present we have no progression award for our computer hardware students.

2 Objectives of the Project

The main objective of this project is to increase our provision at level 4 and 5 and to open up vocational routes to Higher Education. This strategy will also give continuity to our current computing curriculum offer, and enable students to experience higher level skills and education which have been previously unavailable to them (in the past two years. The College previously ran an HND in Computing in conjunction with the university, but these numbers were transferred to the University during 2006/7 because of borderline recruitment numbers.)

With this in place the College will be able to offer progression awards from level 2 to level 5 enabling learners to study at their local education provider, for their chosen career. The College will also look at its level 1 provision in the next 12 months, in order to increase further this progression ladder.

3 Project Approach

The College needs to firstly fully research the likely demand for this type of qualification as well as the units/levels to be studied.

The College will need to carry out some effective market research, by developing a suitable questionnaire, analysing and evaluating the results. The College's own database of previous learners on computing programmes will be used as the starting point of this research, as well as current learners on the national diploma programme

(where results to date have been most encouraging). The research will not only review the demand for the degree, but the mode of delivery/study, the specialist knowledge requirements and the potential client base.

4 Scope:

A Key Products from the project

To have an attractive and viable HE offer in a variety of vocational areas, which traditionally have been under-represented in College with regard to advanced skills.

It is the required platform for growth. HE is an important aspect of the College's work, and as the core business switches to Full level 2 and Full level 3 qualifications, especially with the increased emphasis on adult and employer responsive training, this strategy compliments these Government initiatives by enabling learners to access higher level qualifications at their local educational provider.

This initiative gives continuity and a progression pathway to vocational learners, often from level 1 to 5 (in this case from level 2-5 currently). The College will work with local employers and the University with regard to the two year degree module content, in order to ensure that it meets the occupational needs of the sector and that it will provide new higher level skills and expertise that will add value to an organisation's information technology, operational efficiency and knowledge base.

B Out of Scope

E-Media which is seen as more of a software development (gaming technology) qualification, in contrast to the computing hardware course being developed here.

Part-time route initially, the College recognises that the demand will be for a full time predominantly 19 -25 age group, studying full time with the College.

5 Constraints

High level of returns needed from the foundation degree questionnaire, if a low return is experienced this could invalidate the College's findings. Follow up calls and questionnaires are costly, but essential in order to garner opinion, and to make an informed decision with regard to its future success..

6 Benefits of the Project

- Increased student numbers
- Continuity and progression pathways established in the vocational area of Computing.
- Sector endorsed, by working with key employers and the University on the actual course design and with the core and optional modules to be studied
- Less reliance on LSC funding, giving a better balance and mix of income to the College.
- Increased focus on Higher level skills and education, creating a progression ladder for learners. (In line with the Government's HE strategy)
- This strategy compliments our existing provision and gives learning opportunities from level 1- 5 in College.
- Progression feeder course to the Universities Honours degree programme.

- Good strong recruitment anticipated, based upon an underrepresented geographical area. The College will need to work hard to convert its internal students to an acceptable level as well as courting the three local schools and the surrounding community.

7 Key Assumptions

- The project is assumed to be successful, and will viably convert into HE student numbers.
- Project research and development data is robust and will accurately reflect the demand for such an HE course in South Worcestershire.
- Built in sustainability over the short, medium and long term.
- Support from key employers in the locality to assist in each course design.
- Appropriate marketing and promotion in order to stimulate awareness and demand.
- Acceptance and support of the course structure by the University.
- Acceptance of project funding by HWLLN

8 Costs (This should include the commitment of the organisation to pay 20% of the costs)

Double click on the table below to detail the costs of the project (to insert another row, highlight the row after where you would like the row to be inserted and go to 'Insert' & 'Rows')

Description of Costs	£
Revenue Costs:	
Project Manager - Development time (30 hours x £300)	900.00
Writing and developing year 1 and year 2 modules (90 hours x £300)	2,700.00
Preparing Internal Scrutiny documentation	500.00
Additional Books and Library resources	1,250.00
Marketing and Promotion materials and attendance at HE Fairs	1,800.00
Sub-Total of Revenue Costs	7,150.00
Capital Costs:	
Additonal computing software	2,500.00
Laptop for Project Manager	1,000.00
Sub-Total of Capital Costs	3,500.00
Total Cost	10,650.00

Split		£
HWLLN	(47%)	
	5,000	
EMHC	(53%)	
	5,650	

9 Project Timescale

Research to be completed – **July 2009**

Modules to be written by – **July 2009**

Applications for Internal scrutiny – **Autumn term 2009.**

Foundation Degree offer – **September 2010 onwards**

10 How will the project be evaluated?

Interim report based upon viability via the student questionnaire and response form – **July 2009**

Final report based upon intake numbers for September 2010 and predicted student numbers for the three years thereafter – **March 2010**

11 How will the project be sustained?

- Direct recruitment, from our full time national diploma programme
- Direct recruitment, from our level 3 vocational qualifications, for both full time and part time.
- Canvassing of previous successful students, at level 3.
- Direct recruitment from Schools
- Referrals from the Connexions service for those students who returned to school and decided it was not for them, for those who started an HE programme at University and again found out that this was not to their liking

12 Which aims, outcomes and/or targets will the project achieve for the HWLLN? Please also state which funding criteria this project meets and how.

By providing a more flexible, innovative and accessible range of courses and modules, that will appeal to vocational learners. The courses will also Strengthen the College's and University's links with employers.

This new course will need to be validated in conjunction with the university's honours degree in Computing

13 Implications for Equality and Diversity

This project enables students who would not normally consider progression to HE the opportunity to study in the same location for higher level programmes. This is helpful for those in work or with social responsibilities or disabilities that make travelling a problem

14 Initial Risk Log

The following table summarises the risks that have been identified that may prevent the project being completed to the required quality, budget and timescale. The probability and impact of each risk has been graded as low, medium or high to indicate the relative importance attached to each element of risk.

Risks	Probability	Impact	Containment Plan
Loss of key staff	1 Low	3 High	Recruit suitably qualified staff on a needs be basis.
Failure to recruit a suitable number of students	1 Low	3 High	In depth market research should minimise the chances of failure. Look to offer a full time pathway initially and then further research a part-time route
Inability to meet	1	1	College to schedule its own

prescribed deadlines	Low	Low	project Calendar and internal monitoring report, to ensure that the project remains on course.
Inability to build a sustainable programme over a period of time	1 Low	3 High	Need to attend HE fairs and visit local schools in order to promote the new course. Connexions service to be made aware of the College's new offer. Marketing materials produced and included in full time prospectus for 2010/11 onwards

15 Project Team

At EMHC

1 x Vice Principal – Curriculum and Quality

1 x Curriculum Area Managers

1 x Foundation Degree Project Manager

2 x module tutors.