

Project Name: Developing Performing Arts Fda and Top up

Amendment History:

Version No.	Date	Reason for Amendment
		New proposal

Project Manager

Helen Vine HCA

Document Distribution

Name	Location	Responsibility	Action/Information
Helen Vine	HCA		Author of proposal
Bob Parker	HWLLN	Progression coordinator	Progression agreements
Colin Wood	HWLLN	LLN lead	Information
Debbie Lambert	HWLLN		Information
Geoffrey Elliott		LLN Steering group	To approve project
Gail Rothnie			
Mike Rookes			
Ian Peake			
Chris Morecroft			
Donna Obrey	HWLLN		For tracking

Background

Hereford College of Arts are appointing a new Course Leader for Performing Arts FdA and Top up BA (Hons) to start in September 2008. Issues with identity and direction of the existing course structure and its focus have been identified especially in relation to the specific location, resource base and curriculum context of the college and to the extent to which it addresses local needs and realistic career progression routes. The interim period before appointing a new Course Leader offers an ideal opportunity to identify issues and develop the course towards a more focused and recognisable identity that can be established and built upon by the new appointment.

Objectives of the Project

- This research project proposes to accurately identify problems with the existing course
- Review a range of appropriate course offers in relation to other HE course provision both regionally and nationally, and through contact with local and regional employers and with other stakeholders
- Research into likely demand from both students and employers
- Revise and review course focus and rationale and pattern of delivery, and make recommendations for modification if and where appropriate

- Recommend a pathway to re-focus course identity and outcomes especially with reference to the requirements of the 14 – 19 Diploma as a progression pathway
- Inform the development of non traditional routes to widen participation in HE study

Project Approach

1.Primary research.

Surveys via controlled questionnaires identifying both problems and suggestions for change.
Research interviews with:

- H.E lecturers/specialists in HCA and other comparable institutions
- FE and HE Students in HCA and other comparable institutions
- Potential employers e.g theatre companies, festival and event organizers to determine if and how the course meets employer needs.
- Local Arts strategists and stakeholders e.g. Local Authority, Arts Council West Midlands, Schools to ensure the regional priorities are being met by the course.

2.Case Studies

Involving an in-depth examination of a single experience (e.g. one year's experience as either performing arts teacher or student.). Paradigmatic case studies lend themselves to both generating and testing hypotheses.

Scope:

A Key Products from the project

- Information about student needs
- Information about regional needs
- Indications of progression opportunities from traditional and non traditional routes and in particular Creative and Media pathways
- Recommendations to inform modification to existing course or support potential development of new course for validation by either University of Worcester or University of Gloucester

B Out of Scope

- Implementation of the findings in respect of curriculum changes and any subsequent marketing and recruitment to the course.
- Project funding will not cover the development or approval costs for any newly developed course undertaken as a result of recommendations.

Initial Project Case

To carry out this important piece of work which will form the basis of future modification and development to the course content and delivery, we are seeking funding to support a research project to inform the development of this course by an experienced external professional practitioner who has a working knowledge of HCA, the student body and the location. The outcome will support student and regional needs, 14 – 19 developments and deliver appropriate progression opportunities into employment or further study at partner institutions.

Benefits of the Project

Benefits for students:

- More focused and employment targeted provision
- Provision designed to meet the needs of learners on a local and regional level
- Course developed to broaden vocational opportunities
- Widened progression from FdA to academic studies at HCA or elsewhere.
- A more vocationally focused course designed to provide progression pathway from Level 3 Creative and Media Diploma

Benefits to employers:

- Research will inform development of practical and transferrable skills for employers

Benefits to the LLN:

- Research will contribute towards achievement of the LLN targets to inform development of additional courses in Sport, Tourism, Heritage, Culture and Media
- Research and recommendations will support and inform development of vocational progression via non traditional routes to meet widening participation definition
- Findings and recommendations will reflect Sector Skills requirements

Key Assumptions

- Availability of researcher
- Availability of research targets within time scale eg. Employers/stakeholders, students, tutors.

Costs

Proposed Researcher Dr Ellie Parker

- Teaching experience on several H.E. theatre courses within a variety of institutions e.g Art colleges, Music colleges, Universities etc
- Knowledge of the strengths and weakness of Hereford College of Arts
- Professional/employer perspective as director of New Theatre Works
- Academic and research background in the appropriate discipline
- Ability to research and produce a useful report.

Funding of 8 weeks research work
2.5 days per week @ £150 per day = £375 x 8
Total £3,000

Funding requested: £3000.00

How will the project be evaluated?

Tracking the projected growth in student numbers as a direct result of modification and re-design of course.

Target intake numbers:

Year 1: 15
Year 2: 20
Year 3: 25

Tracking student progression from FD to further study at HCA or elsewhere.

Time Scale:

Project will be carried out over a period of two months. Subject to availability, researcher will be appointed at the end of May. Work will be completed by July 31st 2008

How will the project be sustained?

The project will inform the re-design of the Foundation Degree focusing on vocational needs and clarifying progression opportunities for students to sustain and increase recruitment.

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
Availability of researcher	L	H	Use of alternative researcher
Recruitment of students under target	M	M	Development within modular delivery matrix to support viability of small cohort numbers in development phase
Availability of research targets within time scale	L	H	Plans to utilize existing networks in addition to establishing new contacts in sector

Project Team

Helen Vine: Progression manager
Pete Thorogood: Performing Arts Course leader
Dr Ellile Parker: Researcher