

Project Name: Development of an MSc in Outdoor Education with UW and HCT

Amendment History:

Version No.	Date	Reason for Amendment
1	24/10/07	New Proposal

Project Managers

Colin Wood, HCT
Clare Rhoden, UW

Document Distribution

Name	Location	Responsibility	Action/Information
Colin Wood	HCT	Course leader	Project Manager
Clare Rhoden	UW	Course leader	Project Manager
Debbie Lambert	LLN	Manager of the LLN	Author of the project form
Geoffrey Elliott	UW	Members of the Steering Group	To approve the proposal
Chris Morecroft	WCT		
Ian Peake	HCT		
Mike Rookes	OU		
Gail Rothnie	UoB		
Donna Obrey	LLN	Project Officer for the LLN	To track and monitor project

Background

University of Worcester and Herefordshire College of Technology currently jointly run a BSc in Outdoor Adventure Leadership and Management. This course takes students from the BTEC national diploma in Sport - Outdoor Education which is delivered by HCT. This proposal is requesting funding to contribute to the development of an MSc in Outdoor Education which will provide a progression pathway for students on the BSc course. The BSc is practical in nature, with opportunities for students to take sport coaching awards in parallel with the course. This new course has been developed to extend the current provision for outdoor education and compliments the existing portfolio of MSc courses within the School of Sport and Exercise Science. It will be jointly taught by UW and HCT staff. It focuses on the students' further development of academic, personal and professional skills within the context of outdoor education. Part time and full time study options are available. It will be delivered in evenings and weekends and consequently has been designed to enable both newly qualified graduates and practicing professionals the opportunity for postgraduate study.

The need for an MSc in Outdoor Education has been established from the demand for progression from existing BSc students, from discussions with employers in the sector and from a review of the geographical provision of level 5 courses in the sector.

Both HCT and UW have strong links to local employers and ongoing relationships with the Institute for Outdoor Learning, and National Governing Bodies in the field.

Objectives of the Project

The project will develop a specific Masters course to top up from the existing successful degree course which will be linked to employment via the further development of personal and professional skills through the Professional Placement. It will be jointly taught by UW and HCT. All students will contribute to the LLN ASN

Project Approach

The project will be led by Colin Wood and Clare Rhoden. They will make use of some of the modules on the MSc courses available in the School of Sport and Exercise Science, such as the Research Methods module, Professional Placement modules and the Advanced Independent Study modules. Two new specific modules will also be developed. The award will be made by University of Worcester in all cases.

Scope:

A Key Products from the project

- An MSc in Outdoor Education
- Registered students to count towards the LLN targets
- A progression agreement
- A progression route from BTEC National diploma to masters

B Out of Scope

The project funding will not cover the marketing of this course, nor will it cover any approval costs.

Constraints

- The team is split across two institutions.
- Staff will be developing these qualifications in conjunction with other teaching activities or existing job roles.
- It will be necessary for APC to approve the course and to validate the course.

Initial Project Case

The funding will be used to enable some release of teaching duties for key members of the staff team to develop the course.

Benefits of the Project

Benefits to the student :

- Improved employment opportunities.
- Course which will be accessible in terms of delivery times.
- Opportunities for progression to appropriate course.

Benefits to the LLN :

- Contribution towards achievement of the targets for development of additional courses in sport, tourism, heritage, culture and media.

- Recruitment of students for the ASN target.
- Development of a progression agreement and route.

Key Assumptions

- The availability of key members of the project team
- The validation of the course

Costs of the project

Contribution of up to £2000 for some release of staff teaching

How will the project be evaluated?

- Monitoring of the numbers of students on and completing the course

How will the project be sustained?

The institutions concerned will continue to deliver this course once developed.

Initial Risk Log

Risks	Probability	Impact	Containment Plan
Key project members unavailable due to other commitments	L	H	Discussion with institutions regarding the release of other staff
Students not recruited for Sept 2008	M	H	Start the following September

Contribution to the aims of the LLN

This project fits into the Sport, tourism, heritage, culture and media theme. It will contribute towards the target for new courses and towards the overall ASN total. The course will be vocational in orientation and work-related.

Project Team

Colin Wood (HCT)
 Lee Pritchard (HCT)
 Julie Balsom (HCT)
 Clare Rhoden (UW)
 Gareth Jones (UW)
 Will Bowen-Jones (UW)