

Project Name: University of Worcester & Worcester Sixth Form College Business Students Project

Amendment History:

Version No.	Date	Reason for Amendment
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Name of Project Manager & Contact Details

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Document Distribution

<i>Name</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Action/Information</i>
Debbie Lambert	LLN	Manager of the LLN	For information
Geoffrey Elliott	UW	Members of the	To approve the
Chris Morecroft	WCT	Steering Group	proposal
Ian Peake	HCT		
Mike Rookes	OU		
Gail Rothnie	UoB		
Donna Obrey	LLN	Project Officer for the LLN	To track and monitor project

Background

Worcester Sixth Form College and the University of Worcester have been considering ways of developing links to encourage vocational Business students to consider progressing into higher education on the completion of their BTEC National Business course..

Objectives of the Project

1. students to have the opportunity to sample studying within a higher education setting;
2. students to be able to develop their understanding of how local businesses work and the importance of business links to higher education study.
3. to encourage Business students to consider the benefits of progressing into higher education with the introduction of a COMPACT type scheme whereby if students meet certain criteria, they will receive a beneficial offer of one grade less eg MMP rather than MMM and the opportunity to complete work that would lead to an exemption from a university module. This would build from the present progression agreement between the colleges which has been agreed for 2009 following input from the Lifelong Learning Network.
4. to cascade the COMPACT project to other local institutions with vocational Business students.

Project Approach

Students from Worcester Sixth Form College studying BTEC National Business Studies would have the opportunity to visit the University of Worcester and possibly Worcester College of Technology and either individually or in groups visit one or more of the University's business links to assess how studying Business Studies within a higher education setting would be beneficial to their career prospects.

Areas students could examine may include the Young Enterprise Scheme and the Castle Street new business incubator units as well as business links such as Rabjohns and Bosch. Students would have the opportunity to complete an activity that would allow them to work with a local business link of the university for which successful completion could lead to an exemption from a University of Worcester module. In addition, by successfully completing certain criteria eg attendance, deadline meeting, students could be given a discounted offer of 20 UCAS points by the University of Worcester .

Scope:

A Key Products from the project

More vocational Business students considering progressing into higher education within the Worcestershire area.

Improved Progression agreement

Credit exemption for progressing students

Work with employers to provide work experience to form the basis of the credit

B Out of Scope

A level students

Constraints

Suitable times would have to be agreed for the visits to take place. Risk assessments would have to be completed for any visits.

Initial Project Case

The funding will be used to bring the two staff teams together to plan the improved progression agreement, and to plan the additional work experience activity. This will provide students with additional work experience which they can count as credit against the degree course. It will also provide them with a discount in the UCAS points required to enter the degree.

Benefits of the Project

BTEC National Business students having an enhanced opportunity to progress into higher education in Worcestershire.

Bringing together staff from at least two institutions in order to improve student progression and experience

Improved progression agreement with credit included

Key Assumptions

Students will be happy to participate
Availability of staff

Timescale

It would be hoped that all students who wish to take part would have the opportunity within one academic year.

Costs

- a) staff time for visits to the University of Worcester & Worcester College of Technology including accompanying teachers from WSFC –

4 days for 4 members of staff

20 hrs x £40 = £800 x 4 = £3200

- b) discussing the availability of businesses to assist with the project;

6 hours for 1 member of staff

6 hrs x £40 = £240

- c) staff time for visits to Worcester Sixth Form College to examine student progress and award exemptions;

3 hours for 1 member of staff

3 hrs x £40 = £120

- d) staff time to validate whether students have met the COMPACT criteria.

1.5 hours for 2 members of staff

1.5 hrs x £40 = £60 x 2 = £120

Total cost = £3480

How will the project be evaluated?

Students will be asked to complete questionnaires assessing their views on the sessions and whether they intend to progress into higher education. Over time, we could examine whether the numbers of BTEC National Business students wishing to progress into higher education increases and whether increasing numbers decide to go to the University of Worcester. Furthermore, we could gain feedback from the placement employers.

How will the project be sustained?

Regular meetings would need to be held between representatives of the Business Departments at both institutions, the employers involved and perhaps representatives from Student Services to review the scheme with reviews of the placements used and the questionnaire responses of the students.

Implications for Equality & Diversity

It is intended that all BTEC National Business students will be offered the opportunity to take part . All organisations should meet the requirements of the DDA legislation.

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
Agreeing date for students to visit university	Low	High	Date should be set at the beginning of the project
Organising involvement of business contacts	Medium	High	Need to agree possible dates and role of the businesses

Project Team

Mark Snow – Acting Head of Department of Social Sciences, Worcester Sixth Form College

Graham Williams – Course Leader of Vocational Business, Worcester Sixth Form College

Kerry Morris – Business Tutor, Worcester Sixth Form College

Mark Richardson – Head of Worcester Business School, University of Worcester

John Gardener – University of Worcester