

Cover Sheet for Proposals (All sections must be completed)	<i>JISC Capital Programme</i>	
Name of Capital Programme: (e-Learning; e-Infrastructure; Repositories and Preservation)		
Name of Lead Institution: University of Plymouth		
Name of Proposed Project: MANaged Teaching and Learning Environment - ManTLE		
Name of Project Partners: Truro College – City of Bristol College – Bournemouth and Poole College Education		
Full Contact Details for Primary Contact: Name: Professor John Dixon Position: Professor of Public Policy and Management Email: J.dixon@plymouth.ac.uk Address: 10 Portland Villas University of Plymouth Tel No: 01752 233274 Fax No:		
Length of Project: 2 Years		
Project Start and End Dates: Sept. 06 – Sept. 08		
Total Funding Requested from JISC: £194,284.00		
Funding Broken Down over Project Years: Year 1 - £79,779 Year 2 - £140,505 (See the budget for further details)		
Total Institutional Contributions: £26,000 (salary contributions)		
Outline Project Description This project would design, create and test a new Managed Learning Environment using 'BlackBoard' as the platform, upon which would be placed programmes of study at first-year Foundation Degree level on research skills, study skills, work-based learning and Personal Development Profiles, all of which are integral constituents of Foundation Degree programmes of study at our affiliated Colleges (including Colleges in partnership with the University of Bournemouth).		
I have read the Circular and associated Terms and Conditions of Grant at Appendix B (Tick Box)	YES X	NO

Project Description

Introduction

The University of Plymouth has an extensive network of Partner Colleges delivering Foundation Degrees (FDs) across a wide spectrum of academic areas of study, administered by its University of Plymouth Colleges (UPC) Faculty. As a result of research undertaken under the auspices of the University of Plymouth Higher Education Learning Partnership (HELP) Centre of Excellence in Teaching and Learning (UPC-CETL) and the ESF-funded Accessible Higher Education (AcHE) Project, it has become apparent that the performance of students engaged in full-time first-year FD study would be enhanced by the provision of enhanced academic and work-based learning skills modules that take into consideration their personalised learning needs. This would be best achieved by the development of a Managed Learning Environment (MLE) platform upon which would be placed programmes of learning in the following areas:

- Research Methods
- Study Skills
- Work-based Learning
- Personal Development Profiles

As part of the learning process so facilitated, students would have their academic and work-based learning skills and capacities audited, their individualised needs identified and a tailored learning processes designed and delivered to meet these needs. It is anticipated that this would better prepare students for first-year and second-year FD study and for a seamless progression to Honours Degree study at University.

Project Description

This project would design, create and test a new MLE using 'BlackBoard' as the platform, upon which would be placed programmes of study at first-year FD study on research skills, study skills, work-based learning and Personal Development Profiles. Although we are aware that e-learning is increasingly prevalent in the South West, we do believe an effective learning process must involve interactions amongst learners and between learners and teachers. We believe that with a MANAGED learning environment, as distinct from a VIRTUAL learning environment, there is potential for a clear and precise audit not only of student integration but also whether we are supplying an e-learning environment or just supplying an e-teaching environment.

This project will also identify areas of support that need to be offered to our affiliated colleges, for lecturers and students alike, in the form of e-learning resources. These learning resources are being developed under the auspices of the AcHE Project, but their availability as e-resources is contingent upon the availability of an appropriate MLE.

Project Aims

It is envisaged that the pilot would seek to achieve the following objectives:

- 1) To establish a MANAGED e-learning platform that supports the personalised teaching of basic academic skills needed to complete successfully a programme of study at Higher Education (HE) level in a Further Education Institution (FEI);
- 2) To identify and monitor student attitudes to HE in an FE, so as to ascertain the values, preconceptions and misconceptions about HE;
- 3) To benchmark the HE experience of FE students in affiliated Colleges, so as to be able to identify the challenges they face;
- 4) To identify the learning strengths and weaknesses of HE in FE students;
- 5) To design an effective personalised programme of study related to academic study and skills development;
- 6) To develop a clear audit trail to ensure Quality Assurance throughout the learning experience.

Project Delivery

An MLE designed for the delivery of an effective personalised programme of study related to academic study and research skills development. Once the MLE and the appropriate software and learning support materials have been trialled and evaluated, the learning support material can be placed on the MLE or DVD formatted for distribution to FEI's throughout the South West to Colleges working in partnership with the Universities of Plymouth and Bournemouth, and to other FEI's in the UK.

The administration of this project will be the responsibility of Ian Rosewall, who has a strong background in Telematics and distance/blended learning. In addition to the MLE, he will also be responsible for the production of 'Subject Expert DVD's and resource repositories. He would report to Professor John Dixon, AcSS, who is currently the Academic Leader of the ESF-funded AcHE Project, which is co-sponsored by the Universities of Plymouth and Bournemouth.

Project Milestones

The following milestones have been identified:

September 2006	Project Start
March 2007	Focus Groups conducted Personalised Learning focused workshop conducted
May 2007:	On-line provision of the pilot academic study skills Programme using an MLE platform
August 2007	Review of basic programme pilot
October 2007:	Project Team review and dissemination of findings for year one
November 2007	Write programme content for complete programme
March 2008	Revise MLE platform content
May 2008:	On-line provision of the complete academic study skills Programme using revised MLE platform
August 2008	Review of complete programme pilot
September 2008:	Project Team review and dissemination of findings for year two
September 2008:	Project Evaluation Report submitted
September 2008	Project Ends

Project Outputs

This project is expected to produce the following outputs:

- Learning support material: These would be related to Study Skills, Research Skills, Work-based Learning and Personal Development Profiles in DVD format.
- HE in FE staff workshops: Focus groups would be conducted to identify perceptions of student learning needs and to the teaching and learning needs of teaching staff in affiliated Colleges.
- HE in FE student workshops: Focus groups would be conducted to identify their learning needs and learning preferences.
- Regional dissemination: A regional conference would be organised that will focus on leading-edge pedagogical research into cost-effective provision of programmes of study in Study Skills, Research Skills, Work-based Learning and Personal Development Profiles using e- and

m-learning technologies, conducted in conjunction with the UP-HELP CETL, Foundation Degree Forward (FDF) and the Association of Colleges.

- National dissemination: The research finding would be presented to appropriate national forums (e.g. FDF National Conference).
- Research outputs: The results of the research conducted would be published in professional journals (e.g. Forward, the FDF journal).

Joint Project Funding

It is intended that this project be partially funded by the University of Plymouth through its ESF funded AcHE project and the UPC-HELP CETL. Full budget details are provided below.

Budget

Year One

Staff Costs

<i>Duty</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Time allocated to project per week</i>	<i>Cost in £'s per annum</i>
Academic Leader	Prof. J Dixon	1/2 day	6,250
Project Leader	Ian Rosewall	1 day	6,500
Project Research Co-ordinator	Smita Tripathi	1/2 day	3,500
	Alan		
Learning Advisor	Sanderson	1/2 day	3,500
Learning Advisor	Claire Gray	1/2 day	3,500
Technical programmers	2 X Learning Technologists	2 days	10,000
			33,250
Salary on-costs			6,983
		Total staffing costs	40,233
University Infrastructure cost			8,047
Travel and Subsistence			12,000
Equipment			10,000
Consumables			4,500
Other Costs			5,000
		TOTAL FOR YEAR ONE	79,779

Year Two

Staff Costs

<i>Duty</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Time allocated to project per week</i>	<i>Cost in £'s per annum</i>
Academic Leader	Prof. J Dixon	1/2 day	6,250
Project Leader	Ian Rosewall	1 day	7,000
Project Research Co-ordinator	Smita Tripathi	1/2 day	3,500
Learning Advisor	Alan	1/2 day	3,500

Learning Advisor	Sanderson Claire Gray	1/2 day	3,500
Technical programmers	2 X Learning Technologists	2 days	10,000
			33,750
Salary on-costs			7,088
		Total Staffing costs	40,838
University Infrastructure cost			8,168
Other Costs			5,000
Travel and Subsistence			12,000
Equipment			10,000
Consumables			4,500
Dissemination and review costs at affiliated FEI's			
Bristol			15,000
Camborne			15,000
Plymouth			15,000
Bournemouth			15,000
			60,000
		Total for year two	140,505
Total for Two Year Project			220,284

Key Personnel

Academic Leader: Professor John Dixon BEcon, MEcon, PhD, AcSS, AAIM, FIISE

John Dixon is Professor of Public Policy and Management at the University of Plymouth. He is currently the Academic Leader of the ESF-funded AcHE project. Before joining the University of Plymouth he was Associate Professor in Politics and Sociology, and Head of the Department of Social Sciences, at Lingnan University in Hong Kong (1993–97). Prior to this he was Associate Professor (Reader) in Management, and foundation Executive Director of its David Syme Management Education Centre, at Monash University (1991–92), and Associate Professor and Director of the Management and Policy Studies Centre, at the University of Canberra since 1991) (1983 and 1990). He holds, or has held, a number of honorary international affiliations. He has been a

Senior Research Professor at the International Technology and Economy Institute in Shanghai, China, since 1989. He was the recipient of a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship (1985) granted by the US-based Fulbright Foundation. He has also been a Visiting Professor at the University of Wisconsin and at Rutgers University, and a Social Development Fellow at Adelphi University in the US (1985). He is a member, US-based Policy Studies Organization (since 1981) and he has been a member of its Council-at-Large (2000-02), and is Chair of its International Advisory Council (since 2003).

Project Leader: Ian Rosewall BA(Hons) Combined Business, PG Cert in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education , MSc Information Technology and Management

Ian Rosewall is a Senior Lecturer within the UPC Faculty at the University of Plymouth. He has been a Technical Advisor to the AcHE project for the last two years. A strong academic and professional background and extensive work experience, in Telematics and distance learning. He led the successful 'Telematics for Surgeons' a project between the University of Plymouth and the Royal College of Surgeons before joining the University.

Project Advisors:

Smita Tripathi MA, MPhil, MBA

Smita Tripathi is a lecturer on the third year BSc(Hons) Public Services Programme, the recognised progression route for Public Service Foundation Degree Graduates at the University of Plymouth. She is also currently managing the £397,000 ESF funded project Accessible Higher Education (AcHE). She has been a senior civil servant in India before joining the University of Plymouth and has had extensive project management experience. Her research interests are in the area of leadership, change management and organisational culture. She brings a strong practitioner focus to her academic interests.

Alan Sanderson

Alan Sanderson is a lecturer on the third year BSc(Hons) Public Services Programme, the recognised progression route for Public Service Foundation Degree Graduates at the University of Plymouth. He is also the Curricula Advisor to the AcHE Project. He is currently at the final stages of his PhD and a PG Cert in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education. Currently working with Claire Gray (Higher Education and Progression Co-ordinator at Plymouth College of Further Education), and supported by the Accessible Higher Education Project, a programme entitled *Higher Education in Further Education: An Analysis of Perceptions held by Lecturers and Students*.

Clare Gray

Claire Gray is currently Higher Education and Progression Co-ordinator at Plymouth College of Further Education, although she will soon be joining UPC as its Staff Development Coordinator.

Rob Giles

Rob Giles is the Learning Technologist in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business.

Mark Eggins

Mark Eggins is the Learning Technologist in the University of Plymouth Colleges Faculty.



Our ref: CM/NR

**Professor John Dixon
University of Plymouth
Drake Circus
Plymouth
PL4 8AA**

20 June 2006

Dear John

RE: Mantle Project

I would like to confirm my interest and commitment to Truro College being involved in the Mantle Project.

We look forward to this opportunity.

Yours sincerely

**Cheryl Mewton
Director of Studies**

e-mails dated 20/6/06

**** High Priority ****

Hi John, Ian and Tripathi

I confirm BPC support for the project detailed by John below.

With best wishes

**(Dr) Rob Hardy
Assistant Principal - HE
The Bournemouth and Poole College**

[View As Web Page](#)

Dear John,
I should like to formally express keen interest on behalf of the City of Bristol College a desire to be part of the JISC project Management Learning Environment to support the personalised provision of academic study skills (Study Skills, WBL, Research Methods and PDP) modules at first year FDS level.

Many thanks

Jane

Jane Wills
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