

## **Course Data: making the most of course information**

**JISC has announced a HEFCE funded programme designed to help prepare the sector for increasing demands on course data. Information about the call is available at:**

**<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/fundingopportunities.aspx>**

All eligible institutions are invited to take part in Stage 1, by submitting a letter of commitment (deadline 12:00 noon UK time on Wednesday 7 September 2011) signed by key senior staff, in order to receive £10k of JISC funding. For the full call document, including details of an online briefing about the call to be held between 15.00 and 16.30 on Tuesday 19 July - go to <http://goo.gl/nv6ec>.

As funding for higher education is reduced and the cost to individuals rises, we see a move towards a consumer-led market for education and increased student expectations. One of the key themes about delivering a better student experience discussed in the recent Whitepaper mentions improving the information available to prospective students.

Nowadays, information about a college or university is more likely found via a laptop than in a prospectus. In this competitive climate publicising courses while embracing new technologies is ever more important for institutions.

JISC have made it easier for prospective students to decide which course to study by creating an internationally recognised data standard for course information, known as XCRI-CAP. This will make transferring and advertising information about courses between institutions and organisations, more efficient and effective.

The focus of this new programme is to enable institutions to publish electronic prospectus information in a standard format for all types of courses, especially online, distance, part time, post graduate and continuing professional development. This standard data could then be shared with many different aggregator agencies (such as UCAS, the National Learning Directory, 14-19 Prospectus websites, or new services yet to be developed) to collect and share with prospective students.

### **Programme Outline**

The programme will support the sector to prepare for the increasing demand for course information, and increase the availability of high-quality, accurate information about part-time, online and distance learning opportunities offered by UK institutions teaching HE by:

- funding institutions to make the process and technical innovations necessary to release a structured, machine-readable feed of their course-related information
- create a demonstrator aggregator to bring together this course information and enable prospective students to search it.

Please read the call document for further information:

**<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/fundingopportunities.aspx>**