

September 06 e-Learning circular

Technical developments to support teaching & learning

Administration

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- **Admissions demonstrators:** projects to investigate and provide a technical demonstration of the systems and processes needed to improve HE admissions processes in four main areas.
4–6 projects, 18-month to 2-year duration, 70-100k per project
- **Course description and discovery:** mini-projects to implement and test the XCRI course information specification.
8–10 projects, 6-month duration. 10K per project
- **Course validation:** projects to develop a system, using an existing business process management application, that supports the course validation process based on the COVARM reference model.
2 projects, 1-year duration, 50k per project
- **Domain maps:** projects to produce domain maps (and pilot implementations) of the key administrative functions that support learning and teaching
2–4 projects, 1–2-year duration, 75k per project

Admissions demonstrators - investigate and provide a technical demonstration of the systems and processes needed to improve HE admissions processes in four main areas:-

- a) structured personal profiles, course entry profiles and pre-assessment
- b) improving applicant feedback
- c) accreditation of prior experiential learning
- d) e-portfolio based admissions

4–6 projects, 18-month to 2-year duration, 70-100k per project

- HE valuable commodity – everybody with requisite ability, skills and desire given a fair chance to access.
- Schwartz review of admissions –
 - Applicants need to know how they will be accessed
 - Recognise non traditional qualifications
 - Deal fairly with diverse applicants group
- UCAS on-line application – potential of electronic submissions - more effective use of electronic information
 - Recording admissions decisions
 - Provide feedback to applicant
- E-portfolio for Lifelong Learner Reference model - concentrated on use of e-portfolio in transition process (eg from FE to HE).
- XCRI course description specification

Admission Demonstrator – *Other considerations and expectations*

use and build upon previous development activity in this area especially the work of the e-Portfolio for Lifelong Learning Reference Model which, in partnership with UCAS, has identified:

- A set of processes supporting applicants to make an application to UCAS using structured entry profiles
- The outline of a centralised admissions process
- The outline of feedback to applicants for induction to HE, if successful, or
- For re-application or planning to reach alternative goals if unsuccessful
- will build upon existing practices in admissions and recruitment and selection – supporting studies

Some projects are likely to need to work with UCAS (A+D)

For example :-

- applicants and referees are able to use the structured template for the personal statement within the UCAS Apply system.
- the course entry profiles within the UCAS system are described using the XCRI schema. (see section V of this bid)
- UCAS facilitates the transfer of supporting evidence in an e-portfolio.
- Bidders who anticipate working within the UCAS admissions system **must make contact with UCAS** to discuss their ideas before submitting a bid,
- Include budgetary provision for any work that UCAS will need to carry out in order to establish a suitable test service for the project.
- Jill Johnson, Director of Outreach. Email: j.johnson@ucas.ac.uk; tel: 01242 544631

- A prototype implementation, which acts as a demonstration of the revised admissions processes
 - Practical implementation
 - Working pilot that can be tested
 - User ability for academics, administrators and students
- Need to have fully maps process involved

Course description and discovery:
mini-projects to implement and test
the XCRI course information
specification.

**8–10 projects,
6-month duration.
10K per project**

Course description and discovery – context

- XCRI – draft spec which describes course related info to support :-
 - Course marketing
 - Quality assurance
 - Enrolment + reporting
- make its easier publish and share
- Facilitate many administration functions underpinning L&T
- Grass route demand, considerable take-up
- Trial, evaluate and refine for submission to Open Standards process.

- Mini projects to implement and test the XCRI course information specification.
- Use web services to expose course information to public
- Harvested by aggregator and discovery service (support project)
- Course offering - must be sufficient in range to test specification fully

- A demonstration implementation - which advertise catalogue of course offering
- Any software developed – open source
- Case study
 - Organisational and technical issues encountered
 - Evaluation and feedback to XCRI support project

- **Course validation:** projects to develop a system, using an existing business process management application, that supports the course validation process based on the COVARM reference model.

**2 projects, 1-year duration,
50k per project**

Course validation - context

- In HE lots of human-oriented business process that support L&T— student registration + selection process, course validation etc
- COVARM - Detail modelling of course validation process produced Canonical Model which identified :-
 - mainly about co-ordination of people with document via events
 - areas that would most enhanced by process automation
- Several existing business process management application that support this sort of workflow.
- Are HEI business process similar enough to take advantage of existing corporate tool ?
- Can HEI use existing (open source) BPM application for common admin processes ?

- Projects must configure and deploy an os BPM application to deliver and demonstrate two workflows identified by the COVARM reference model.
- Must use open standards where available
- XCRI course description
- Build on pervious work

- A demonstration implementation
- Any software developed – open source
- Case study
 - Organisational and technical issues encountered
 - Evaluation of OS BPM for HEIs
 - Feedback to COVARM

- ***Domain maps:*** projects to produce domain maps (and pilot implementations) of the key administrative functions that support learning and teaching

**2–4 projects, 1–2-year duration,
75k per project**

- Mapped some of the e-learning environment (assessment, e-portfolio, PLE, Learning Activities, Course validation and description)
- Reference models to Domain Maps
- Administration of Learning & Teaching strategic goal
- Potential benefits of service-oriented approach for Administrative support functions

- Produce domain map and associated models
 - High level function of that domain
 - Practice and process models
 - Information models
 - Service usage models
- Iterative approach that engages stakeholders
- Build upon previous domain models

- Domain map
- Proof of concept implementation of at least one service usage model
- Case study/report
- Contribution of services usage models to e-Framework

