

e-Learning Capital Programme

Vision Statement

JISC's core e-Learning programme aims to identify how e-learning can benefit learners, practitioners and educational institutions, and advise on its implementation. The e-learning activity within the Capital Spending Review Programme will complement and build upon the core activities, with a focus on helping institutions to meet the diverse needs of learners throughout their lives.

The e-Learning Capital programme is an £11 million investment to support the sector in harnessing the potential of e-learning to support lifelong learners. A particular area of investigation will be around providing a personalised learning experience, meeting the needs of individual learners in a range of settings through the use of technologies such as e-portfolios and technologies which support assessment and collaboration. The programme also includes work on how technology can facilitate the more sophisticated administration processes needed for this kind of flexible provision.

The new programme builds particularly on previous JISC-funded work on supporting lifelong learners and facilitating progression into higher education carried out under the MLEs for Lifelong Learning and Distributed e-Learning programmes, taking further the exploration of the technical, administrative and cultural changes institutions need to make in order to deliver a personalised learning experience that meets students' needs. These students increasingly independently select and use a wide range of technologies to support their learning and their social life, presenting a potential challenge for institutions which may have seen themselves as the providers of the learning environment. The programme aims to support institutions in meeting this challenge and harnessing the potential of the technology.

Providing appropriate opportunities for work-based learning is key in enabling many groups of people to access higher education. The programme will therefore explore how institutions can engage with employers and use technology to support the delivery of learning in ways that meets the needs of employers and learners.

Programme outcomes

The anticipated outcomes of the programme are to:

- Pilot new e-learning technologies to support lifelong learners, including support for HE courses in FE, widening participation, work-based learning, flexible delivery and personalised learning experiences.
- Build capacity, knowledge and skills in the use of e-learning to support lifelong learning through institutional and collaborative cross sector projects; work with subject communities, and knowledge exchange activities.
- Develop, pilot and implement technical models that support the flexible, affordable and pedagogically diverse implementation of e-learning.
- Provide guidance to practitioners, institutions and subject communities on the use of e-learning, in partnership with the Higher Education Academy.
- Gain knowledge to inform future JISC e-learning developments, through engagement with the ICT industry and through a collaborative e-learning research programme.

Work Packages

WP1. Exploring practical approaches to supporting the sector's uptake of e-learning technology to support lifelong learning.

April 2006 – March 2009. Budget: £5,500,000

Activities under this work package:

- 1.1 Extension of the distributed e-learning regional pilots at a lower level of funding for up to an additional year to 15 months.
- 1.2 Regional and collaborative projects to pilot the use of e-learning to support lifelong learning, including the support of progression and workplace learning, and the provision of flexible delivery and personalised learning experiences. These projects will be carried out in two phases, to enable new developments from within the wider e-learning programme and other JISC programmes to be fed into the second phase.
- 1.3 Projects within FE colleges on the use of e-learning technologies, especially e-portfolios and technologies which support assessment, administration and the provision of a personalised learning experience, to support the delivery of HE courses.
- 1.4 A consultancy to work alongside JISC to support collaboration with the educational ICT industry.
- 1.5 A project to explore models for, and potentially to implement, knowledge exchange within the sector between current and past JISC development projects and other people and institutions seeking to build on their developments.

Outcomes:

- Pilot new e-learning technologies to support lifelong learning - including support for HE courses in FE, widening participation, workplace learning, flexible delivery and personalised learner experiences - to stimulate positive and informed changes in the sector.
- Build capacity, knowledge and skills in the use of e-learning to support lifelong learning through institutional and collaborative cross sector projects and knowledge exchange activities.
- Gain knowledge to inform future JISC e-learning developments, through engagement with the ICT industry.
- Provide guidance to the sector on the use of e-learning to support cross-institutional delivery of lifelong learning, including support for HE courses in FE, widening participation, work-based learning, flexible delivery and personalised learner experiences.

Benefits:

- Increased impact and take up of the approaches piloted by the Distributed e-Learning Regional Projects.
- Additional evidence provided or more in-depth lessons learned on the cross institutional use of technology to support lifelong learners, enabling the sector to make more informed decisions.
- Greater uptake of e-learning across institutions to support widening participation, work placed learning, flexible delivery and personalised learner experiences.
- Institutions have access to guidance, and transferable models, and support, enabling them to make more informed decisions on the use of e-learning.
- Learners are provided with a personalised learning experience through appropriate use of e-learning.
- Improved support and removal of administrative barriers for learners progressing between courses and institutions.
- Increased awareness in FE of how e-learning can be used to support their HE courses, and increased uptake of e-learning for this purpose.

- Staff in colleges and Regional Support Centres have increased skills and knowledge of e-learning.
- JISC is able to draw up appropriate policy and plan engagement with the ICT industry.
- In the longer term, the ICT industry works with JISC in e-learning development programmes.
- JISC's ability to support knowledge exchange is increased.

WP2. Technical underpinning of developments to support learning and teaching.
April 2006 – December 2008. Budget: £2,700,000.

Activities under this work package:

- Reference model development, building on existing technical modelling work in e-portfolio and technologies which support assessment, administration and the provision of a personalised learning experience, and developing others as required.
- Additional funded activities within regional and collaborative projects (see WP 1) to support the adoption of e-Framework technologies to support the administration of learning and teaching.
- Demonstrator projects implementing the reference models, working with key sector partners such as UCAS.

Outcomes:

- Develop, pilot and implement technical models that support the implementation of e-learning technologies.
- Stimulate positive and informed change in the sector through piloting e-Framework technologies to support the administration of learning and teaching.

Benefits:

- JISC is able to make informed decisions on future technical development projects.
- Institutions have technical models (blueprints) for implementation of re-usable interoperable services in specific domain areas of e-learning.
- Increased uptake of e-administration to support lifelong learning.
- Re-usable, interoperable web services available to institutions.
- Practical feedback provided on technical models.

WP3. Collaborative activities with the Higher Education Academy and its Subject Centres
April 2006 – March 2008. Budget: £1,450,000

Activities under this work package:

- Two phases (starting April 2006 and April 2007) of projects in the Subject Centres, piloting and feeding back on the use of a number of e-learning technologies and approaches within subject communities. The areas to be explored are:
 - Re-use and sharing of learning resources
 - Use of the outputs of the Digitisation programme in learning and teaching
 - Use of e-portfolios in subject and professional contexts, working with employers, sector skills councils and professional bodies
 - Supporting the development of e-learning tools by piloting tools and providing input on the needs and requirements of the different subject communities
 - Supporting the Pedagogy strand of the e-Learning programme by engaging with the Learner experience study or the Designing for Learning activities.

Outcomes:

- Pilot new e-learning technologies to support lifelong learning within subject communities to stimulate positive and informed changes in the sector.
- Build capacity, knowledge and skills in the use of e-learning to support lifelong learning through work with subject communities.

Benefits:

- Practitioners and institutions are better able to access appropriate information and guidance in the use of e-learning within disciplines.
- Subject Centres are better able to support their communities with guidance on the use of e-learning.

WP4. Virtual e-learning centre
April 2006 – March 2008. Budget: £500,000

Activity under this work package:

- Joint activity with the Higher Education Academy to support the process of linking development activities with advisory and Academy services to provide a more effective information flow.

Outcome:

- Through a collaborative e-learning service with the Higher Education Academy to provide a more effective flow of information and guidance to the sector on best practice in e-learning.

Benefit:

- Practitioners and institutions are better able to access appropriate information and guidance on the use of e-learning.

WP5. e-Learning research
September 2006 – March 2009. Budget: £400,000

Activity under this work package:

- Collaborative research activities with the research councils and the Higher Education Academy.

Outcome:

- Gain knowledge to inform future JISC e-learning developments, through a collaborative e-learning research programme.

Benefits:

- Increased evidence base for effective use of e-learning.
- Future JISC work is informed by research.