



Cover sheet for bids

JISC ITT: Leap2A (PIOP3)

Name of institution/organisation: University of Derby

Full contact details for primary contact:

Name: Sarah Malone

Position: Educational Science Consultant

Email: S.Malone@derby.ac.uk

Address: University of Derby, Kedleston Road, Derby, DE22 1GB

Tel: 01332 592325

Fax: 01332 591228

Length of Project: 6 months

Project Start & End Dates: 1st February 2010 to 30th July 2010

Total Funding Requested from JISC: £5,000

Outline Project Description:

The e-APEL Leap2A project will develop and implement user-controlled LEAP 2A import and export functionality for the existing e-APEL system, providing data exports to allow other participants to evaluate our export functionality and subsequently evaluating exports from other participating projects, ensuring all relevant data is imported.

Project documentation will contribute to the identification of implications for the standard specification, resulting in the development of the LEAP2A standard.

Tick this box to indicate that this proposal has been approved by an appropriate member of the institution/organisation



JISC e-APEL Leap 2A Proposal

1. System Overview & Project Aim

The JISC funded e-APEL project, led by the University of Derby and completed in September 2008, developed an e-APEL system consisting of two tools which utilised e-assessment technologies to automate the pre-entry stages of an APEL claim. The Estimator tool provided a data entry interface for potential learners to self assess their prior experience in relation to their identified learning ambition. This allows the user to begin the reflective practice of justifying their self assessment choices whilst building up a body of supporting evidence. The data inputted by the user is then extracted and presented to the APEL tutor for evaluation through the Advisor tool, and feedback can be returned offering an indication of the credit they may be eligible for if they choose to proceed with the claim. The project identified that the next logical step for the e-APEL system was to build more functionality for the users with the provision of an import / export option, which would allow them to transport data seamlessly between the tools and an external e-portfolio system.

The e-APEL system currently has only been rolled out on a small scale at the University of Derby due to an internal redesign of the Work Based Learning programme, which the tools were designed to be used with. However, as a bespoke version of the e-APEL system has recently been purchased by the West London Lifelong Learning Network, it is expected that by the LEAP2A project completion date of the 30th July 2010 the tools will have been fully implemented at the Thames Valley University and the Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College. Three scenarios of practice and interoperation have been envisaged:

Scenario A

A prospective learner completes the e-APEL process for an institution. They are successful. The learner is given an e-portfolio account at the institution and uses the export from the e-APEL system as the initial input into this account.

Scenario B

The system is used by an employer to assess CPD using the Professional Associations Research Network (PARN) model. A learner starts a programme with a professional body and imports the information from the system into the professional body's e-portfolio system

Scenario C

A learner has an account on an e-portfolio system run by their employer they import this data into the e-APEL system of an institution to get credits towards a foundation degree.

This project proposal outlines how the e-APEL LEAP2A project will aim to develop and implement user-controlled LEAP 2A import and export functionality for the existing e-APEL system. It is anticipated that by providing data exports to allow other participants to evaluate the e-APEL system export functionality, and subsequently evaluating exports from other participating project systems, the project findings can be collated, evaluated and used to contribute to the development of a consensus on the specification of a LEAP2A standard.

2. Technical Development

The e-APEL system architect will work collaboratively with the other LEAP2A project partner technical teams to develop a standard import and export functionality, working to the identified key project milestones:

- Set up test system and account
- Submit learner documentation
- Submit glossary
- Map data against LEAP2A items and relationships
- Document export
- Develop export
- Test export internally
- Test export against other systems
- Document import
- Develop import
- Test import internally
- Test import against other systems
- Document test results
- Compile report

The e-APEL system currently stores the following information:

- User Personal Information
- Learning Ambitions
- Competency Framework
- Prior Learning
- Evidence of Prior Learning
- Experience
- Evidence of Experience
- Learning Levels
- Qualification Types
- Evaluation of Prior Learning
- Evaluation of Experience
- Tutor Feedback

The project will look to map these data entities to the LEAP2A items and their relationships to the LEAP2A relationships, allowing data to be interoperable amongst the project partner systems.

3. Project Outputs

The main project outputs will be:

- Import and Export functionality implemented within the e-APEL system
- Effective and seamless data import from at least 3 project partner systems
- Detailed project documentation including evaluation of the import and export approach and the success of import from other systems.
- Contribution to the consensus building of a LEAP2A standard specification

4. Intellectual Property Rights

The following sentence clarifies the position of the system with regard to IP and licensing for development work.

The export and import formats will be covered by the licenses of LEAP2A. The documentation of the solution including the data mapping will be covered by a creative commons licence. The e-APEL system is currently, and will continue to be, owned by the University of Derby.

5. Risk Analysis

A brief assessment of the risks associated with the work and how these will be managed is presented below:

Risk	Probability (1-5)	Severity (1-5)	Score (P x S)	Action to Prevent/ Manage Risk
Lack of skilled staff (Includes staff leaving)	1	5	5	Small project team consisting of highly experienced staff; based within IfL department and so are fully supported by additional technical staff, that can be seconded to the project should any difficulties be encountered.
Failure to manage project effectively	1	4	4	An experienced project manager has been assigned to the project, who will follow sound project management techniques and have additional support in place if necessary.
Insuperable technical difficulties encountered	1	5	5	The project system architect has wide experience of the technologies to be used.
Failure of timely provision of import data / systems from other projects.	1	3	3	Strict deadline of May 2010 enforced by the JISC and regular progress updates will highlight any potential issues before they arise.

Project Resources

6. Project Staff

The project will be managed by Dr Sarah Malone, currently the Educational Science Consultant and e-APEL product manager within the Innovation for Learning (IfL) department at the University of Derby. Sarah has worked in the area of technology and learning for the last five years, and has a particular interest in computer based assessment, e-learning content creation and learning design. She has successfully project managed two previous JISC funded e-learning projects, (POCKET and e-APEL), where she was responsible for working closely with academics and subject specialists to create online delivered innovative learning solutions.

Gordon Alexander will be the responsible for all the technical development work as the project Systems Architect. Gordon has over twenty years experience of applications

development across a range of platforms including IBM, Microsoft and Linux and is IFL's technical architect for large-scale learning environments.

7. Workpackages

The proposed project work has been broken down into work packages and incorporated into a project Gantt chart, following the JISC Project Management guidelines, so that the feasibility can be assessed and completion dates assigned.

WORKPACKAGES	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Feb 2010	March 2010	April 2010	May 2010	June 2010	July 2010
PHASE 1 – Project Initiation						
1: Submission of project outline						
2: Test account set up						
3: Provision of glossary and learner documentation						
4: Final version of Data Mapping table submitted						
PHASE 2 – Technical Development						
7: Develop, Test & Implement import functionality						
8: Develop, Test & Implement export functionality						
9: Prepare Import & Export Documentation						
10: Test partner projects export functionality						
11: Preparation of Project Report and completion of Import / Export documentation						
PHASE 3 – Project Completion						
12: Completion and submission of partner Import evaluation report						
13: Project Report and Import / Export Documentation submitted						

8. Budget

The project budget outlined in the table below, shows that the majority of the project expenditure will be on the staff costs for both the technical development work, and for the project management and documentation time.

The allocation of a 0.2 FTE for each role has been allocated based on the requirement that, of the 132 working days available between the project start and finish dates, there will be:

- 20 days technical development and testing – Systems Architect
- 25 days Documentation – 15 days Project Manager
– 10 days System Architect
- 10 days Meeting / Events Attendance – 5 days Project Manager
– 5 days System Architect

Directly Incurred Staff	Feb 2010- July 2010
[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]