

Digital Literacies funding to support the new APP

The Centre for Staff Training and Development PGCAP team are working to design a new Academic Practice Programme (APP) to replace the PGCAP as a condition of completing probation. The APP will enable a more flexible, innovative and supportive approach to programme delivery and assessment in order to more effectively prepare both support staff and new lecturers in meeting the diverse challenges of their new role within a research intensive university.

The new programme will be delivered in intensive blocks rather than weekly workshops. Beyond using Blackboard as an online repository for programme resources, we also plan to use Blackboard for communication purposes and delivery of content between the intensive blocks. We are keen to create an online learning space where participants can continue to develop their understanding of T&L and where discussion can take place. We are aware of the constraints that Blackboard Learn will place on us in achieving this goal, and are considering the use of software/tools to support our work, such as Blackboard Collaborate and the Learning Object Creator (LOC) Tool *.

We plan to use the funding to cover the costs of two half day meetings with a Learning Technology Consultant to help us to plan a strategic approach to designing the online space and advise pragmatic solutions in terms of software use, pedagogic approach. We have had an outline discussion with Nicola Langton who has specialised knowledge of both Blackboard, the University context, and distance learning, and would be interested to take on this work. The funds would further cover the costs of a student to help 'build' the online content in Blackboard according to briefs provided, possibly also using an authoring tool such as the LOC tool outlined above. We have spoken with Karsten Lundqvist in Systems Engineering who advised us of a likely hourly rate for students (at least £9 per hour) and who may also be able to help us find a suitable student. At this stage we are uncertain about number of hours required in terms of building Blackboard content.

Outline of costs:

- Two half day's consultancy at £250 per half day = £500
- Fifty hours Blackboard support building content according to brief supplied @ £10 per hour = £500
- £500 not yet allocated but possible use for software, training, building content, etc.

* Designed by the LLAS Subject Centre with the University of Southampton eLanguages group.

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