Project Sheet

E-learning and Teaching: Activity Templates

People Involved

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Key Words

e-learning, pedagogy,
templates

Description

The project, funded by the
Centre for Distance Learning,
is intended to develop a series
of teaching and learning
templates for use by
academic staff. These
will contribute to their
understanding of educational
issues pertaining to education,
especially the use of ICT
in distance or blended
education within the University
of London. The templates
will guide them towards
good practice in teaching.

Use of templates as guides to
a variety of activities, especially
in the business field, is seen as
feasible and effective, but has
not been seriously attempted
in the educational context.
Provision of such aids is
intended to facilitate practical
advances in teaching and
learning in the distance
programmes. In the light of
continuing uncertainty among
staff about e-learning, and
generally about methods
of incorporating ICT into
their courses, this project
addresses a very relevant
educational issue.

Methods

Specific courses will be
selected to identify target
student groups and the
templates created for them
will be the teaching and
learning outcomes of the
project. The development
of the templates will be
based on a professional
understanding of current
approaches to learning
and teaching, and awareness
of current research and
development in the field of
distance education. A
literature review will ensure
that the project takes account
of work underway elsewhere
or research already carried
out, and avoids
unnecessary duplication.

The templates themselves
will be built using up-to-date
technology, such as
Macromedia Breeze and
Microsoft PowerPoint, in such
a way as to simplify the use of
ICT aids for the presentation of
content and the organisation
of learner activities in the
distance education context,
(though this will obviously be
relevant to traditional on-site
teaching also). The project
expects to include among
the aids to teaching, the use
of synchronous video-
conferencing and instant text
messaging by internet, video
streaming of recorded video-
conferencing, audio
conferencing, and
collaborative synchronous and
asynchronous online learning
activities. The templates will
present possible but flexible
ways of integrating ICT into
a variety of teaching and
learning processes so as
to create effective teaching
plans and course curricula.

Outcomes

- Templates of Teaching and
Learning Activities [TLA] in
simple generic formats to
assist academic teaching
staff in all subject areas;

- TLA templates for work based
learning students;

- Project reports and
presentations;

- A collection of case study
examples of lessons made
from the templates. ■

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