

Curriculum Development Funding

Summary

This document outlines opportunities to receive payment for the development and dissemination of work related learning activities. These opportunities are:

- writing of short case study descriptions of existing activities;
- enhancing existing, or creating new activities to develop the curriculum.

Background

Real World is a project with a national focus supported by the HEFCE Fund for the Development of Teaching and Learning. The project aims to enhance the employability of students within the disciplines of Agriculture, Environment, Forestry and Organismal Biosciences through the integration of work related learning activities in the curriculum. The project is a partnership between relevant faculties in the University of Sunderland and University of Newcastle upon Tyne with support and involvement from the Geography, Earth and Environmental Science and Biosciences Learning and Teaching Support Networks.

A practical definition of work related learning as *'learning activities through which students experience elements of the practise of work and/or the work place'*. These activities lead to the acquisition of skills, knowledge and understanding that in turn enhance graduate employability. Learning in such a context is based on the learner's experience or aspirations for work which helps make for deeper learning. This approach represents a continuum of learning and teaching that includes activities both in the work place and on campus. Such activities may include visits, live projects, role play, simulations, case studies and mentoring, as well as placements.

Funding Opportunities

a. Writing of Short Case Studies

Real World wish to invite the submission of up to **40** short case study descriptions that illustrate the range of **existing** work related activities being employed across Agriculture, Environment, Forestry and Organismal Biosciences. The case studies will be included as part of the project web site and contributors will need to be prepared to be contacted by interested staff in other institutions. A fee of **£100** will be paid for each case study used, possible revisions and clarification may be requested.

Submission - Short Case Studies

If interested in submitting a case study please send a statement of around **80** words describing the work related outcomes of the activity and how the activity achieves these outcomes. If within the area of interest the project will contact you and commission the production of the case study.

Commissioned case studies should be received by **7th December** and include:

- institution, programme and module name
- 0 level (year) and number of student learning hours associated with the activity
- clearly stated work related learning outcome(s)
- description of the teaching activity which achieves the learning outcome(s) (100 words)
- rationale for selection of teaching activity (100-150 words)
- assessment - approach and rationale (copy of assessment sheet) (100 words plus assessment sheet)
- any possible future developments (50-100 words)
- 0 contact details/e-mail and web links if available

a. Curriculum Development

The project is inviting bids from within Agriculture, Environment, Forestry and Organismal Biosciences for funding to support the development of work related learning activities for intended delivery in Semester 1 or 2, 2002-2003.

Development may include the **enhancement** of existing activities, or the **creation** of new ones. The project intends to support **10** such bids and funding will be to a maximum of **£2,500** per bid. Other benefits to involvement in the project include access to the practitioner network, invitation to network meetings and access to the knowledge and expertise gained through an audit of good practice.

Submission - Enhanced/New Curriculum Development

Enhanced/new curriculum developments should be received by **23rd November** and should include:

- institution, programme and module name
- level (year) and number of student learning hours associated with this activity
- clearly stated existing/proposed work related learning outcome(s)
- description of the teaching activity which achieves the existing/proposed learning outcome(s) (100 words)
- rationale for selection of teaching activity (100-150 words)
- 0 existing/proposed approach for assessment (100 words)

Further details including (max. 500 words):

- 0 summary of the proposed development stating if this is an enhancement to an existing teaching and learning activity or the creation of a new one
- 1 outline of learning resources that will be produced
- 2 approach to evaluation of enhanced/new teaching activity
- 3 benefits in relation to work related learning and employability
- 4 an outline work plan including timescales and breakdown of proposed expenditure
- 5 short summary of learning and teaching experience of key person

Close liaison with the project team and dissemination of good practice via the project will be expected. A condition of any funding agreement will include regular reporting and an end of development activity case study report to be included in the database of good practice.

Timetable for curriculum development submissions:

- submissions received by **23rd** November
- preliminary decision informed by **7th** December
- delivery agreements arranged and development activity begins from by **January 2002**

Submissions will be judged **by** the quality of the proposal in terms of enhancing the student experience and advancing the outcomes of the Real World project. Payment will be against outcomes and a delivery agreement between the project and a successful institution will require endorsing by the Head of Department.

For further information, advice on any aspect of your proposal or to submit bids please contact: **Paul Freeman**, Development Officer, Academic Development Unit, Careers Service, University of Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU.
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