LEARNING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OVERVIEW FORM

Project title	Communities of practice			Project ID No	CLAD – HIST020 (this is a follow on from CLAD HIST019)
Strategy area/theme	Education				
Start date	Jan 2010	Completion date	June 2011		
Project type	Learner independence project				
Level		Programme of study			

Aims	The aim of this part of the project is to develop a Community of Practice (CoP). It is to build upon the Designing for Enquiry Based Learning (DiBL) event design and related activities and will explore learner independence through enquiry. Part of the intention is to create a range of assets (digital and print) that can be used to support and maintain this and other CoPs. These assets (case study resources) would include examples, learning designs, lessons learnt, project leaders, related staff and student voice.
	
	The project will focus on the following areas:
	a) Gathering case study resources from existing LIP and related projects
	b) Developing a CoP around the DiBL concept focusing on how we can embed and develop good practice further. To explore and create
	    - enquiry based blended learning design to support independent learning (EBL & "Birmingham Graduate")
	    - multimedia based assets that can be shared and incorporated into learning and teaching activities
	    - share practice, ideas and resources
	
	    - encourage embedding of good practice across the institution
	
	c) Gather case studies from the CoP (tracking the participants journey)
	d) Contributing assets and related resources to a central Curriculum Design resource and disseminate findings (as below).
	
	The CoP would provide one ongoing support mechanism for staff to aid in their enhancement activities around independent learning through enquiry. The staff targeted would include PGCert participants and those staff who are willing to engage with the L&T strategy but require ongoing support and up skilling. This proposal to create and sustain a CoP is designed to contribute to the plans that existing in the L&T strategy re creation and sustaining L&T CoPs (APOD lead) within UoB.				

Objectives	1. An analysis of the skills required for effective independent learning, including assessment and progression over three years 2. An analysis of student accounts of experience of learning in FE and interpretation of entry skills 3. The development of an induction process/students support network which supports students' understanding of the aims of HE in enabling them to achieve these transferable skills, engages them in self assessment and enables them to construct PDP/CV. 4. A bank of tasks/pedagogical strategies, including use of WebCT, which are shown to be effective in developing independent learning skills 5. A strategy to embed these skills in module/programme provision, with appropriate systematic training of academic staff 6. Revision to module/programme specifications where necessary 7. Development of students' use of term three time 8. Monitoring of development of skills for two (three) years of 2006 entry, and of student understanding of 'value for money' in HE provision
Further Information	For further information on this project please contact CLAD at University of Birmingham cladprojects@contacts.bham.ac.uk quoting CLAD projects HIST020 (please note – follow on from HIST019)