

LEARNING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OVERVIEW FORM

Project title	Integrating flexible e-learning and mobile technologies in geography		Project ID No	CLAD - HIST029
Strategy area/theme	Geography, earth and environmental sciences			
Start date	July 2006	Completion date	October 2007	
Project type	Learner enhancement project			
Level	Undergraduate	Programme of study	BA/BSc Geography	
Aims	To develop students' key skills relating to fundamental approaches to geographical enquiry by embedding the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and mobile technologies into students' course of study.			
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Develop key skills relating to fundamental approaches to geographical enquiry – Gain knowledge and understanding of (i) different types of map and grid systems and GPS technology, (ii) accuracy and precision together with critical awareness and evaluation of the different types of errors with respect to their studies generally and mobile technologies and instrumental data sources in particular, and (iii) how these concepts relate to 'real world' (i.e., applied) and research examples – Develop high quality skills of field observation and instrumental data recording, including the use of mobile technologies – Develop their skills in data manipulation, problem solving, interpretation, synthesis and reporting – Become more familiar with the physical environment of Birmingham and its surroundings – Have developed the necessary skills for (and be aware of the problems and benefits of working in small groups to plan, undertake and report on a programme of field- and 'laboratory-based' work 			
Overview	The use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and mobile technologies in the work place has increased significantly in recent years; hence, there is a pressing need to develop courses that embed this new technology and enhance graduates' skills base (Naismith, 2005). After 1 year, the aim was to have a fully functioning Level 1 10-credit module comprising 2 new projects employing mobile technologies and delivered via a WebCT platform together with the adaptation of a third project for delivery by WebCT. The module aims to use a flexible, student-centred approach along with groupwork to develop key subject-specific and transferable skills. The project mapped directly onto this School's learning and teaching strategy which places emphasis on responding in a timely and effective way to changes in disciplinary, educational, technological and professional environments and to producing graduates with high quality transferable skills so as to be effective participants in their post-university careers.			
Further Information	<p>For further information on this project please contact CLAD at University of Birmingham</p> <p>cladprojects@contacts.bham.ac.uk quoting CLAD projects HIST029</p>			