

# Digitally Ready for the Future

## Application for small project funding

- Funding for small projects is available to staff and students under the following themes: Work placements; Employability; Enhancing T & L through the use of technology; Digital skills and literacies; Staff/student partnerships
- All successful applicants will be expected to
  - actively disseminate project outputs (e.g. by contributing to relevant T & L events and submissions to the Digitally Ready and/or Enhancing Teaching and Learning blogs)
  - participate in a celebration event in the Spring Term involving all successful applicants
  - complete a short project report and case study proforma by 31 May 2012
- Project funds will be available until 30 April and all project work should be completed by then.
- An electronic copy of the completed application form must be submitted to **Nadja Guggi** ([n.guggi@reading.ac.uk](mailto:n.guggi@reading.ac.uk)) by **Monday 3 December 2012**.

### Applicant details

<b>Name</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Member of staff Dr Kimberly Watson <input type="checkbox"/> <del>Student</del>
<b>Department</b> School of Biological Sciences
<b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:k.a.watson@reading.ac.uk">k.a.watson@reading.ac.uk</a>
<b>Telephone</b> 0118 378 6640

### Project team (Please give details of any other team members)

<b>Name</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Member of staff Dr Teeroumanee Nadan <input type="checkbox"/> <del>Student</del>
<b>Department</b> School of Biological Sciences
<b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:t.nadan@reading.ac.uk">t.nadan@reading.ac.uk</a>
<b>Telephone</b> 0118 378 8168

### Project type

- Research placement
- Project placement
- Staff/student partnership (staff-led)**
- Staff/student partnership (student-led)
- Teaching & Learning/Research project
- APP project

### Project theme/s (Please tick all that apply)

- Work placements**
- Employability**
- Enhancing T & L through the use  
— of technology
- Digital skills and literacies
- Staff/student partnerships

## Project Title

**Embedding employers' perspectives on global employability skills in the Biosciences into the bioscience curriculum at Reading**

## Project Summary

*Describe the proposed project (up to 500 words). Your summary should demonstrate how your project relates to the use of digital technologies and/or the development of digital literacies of staff and/or students, and should include the following:*

- *Background*
- *Aims and objectives*
- *Scope*
- *Outcomes and deliverables*
- *Sustainability*
- *Project schedule*

### **Background**

A modular framework is being developed by the School of Biological Sciences to deliver blended learning via on-line modules and supplemented with residential workshops, in 'Existing and Emerging Biotechnologies' (EEB) that allows an attendee access to industrial and academic experts and, state of the art instrumentation. Presently, we are developing 3 bioscience based modules of the EEB course and are engaging with global employers and professional societies to identify additional modules, ultimately leading to the development of a Graduate Training (MSc in Biotechnology, for example) and/or Professional Doctorate Programme. These are crucial developments in the School of Biological Sciences at Reading, focused on recruitment of the highest calibre post-graduate student and, ultimately, creation of a globally competitive workforce in bioscience.

(Information Page <http://blogs.reading.ac.uk/bioscience-skills/bioscience-industry-skills/>)  
(Posts <http://blogs.reading.ac.uk/bioscience-skills/category/bioscience-industry-skills-courses/>)

### **Aims & Objectives**

We have devised 3 entry levels to the current modules, based on previous feedback obtained in the pilot EEB short course run in 2010. One requirement for recruiting new participants is to determine the entry level of the participant. Therefore, we are currently developing an on-line diagnostic tool, prior to the point of entry for any module.

We have trialled several software packages in terms of their technical suitability, but now need to focus on suitability for the potential participants to the course. In this respect, anticipating and matching the entry level are critically important in that the tool must

correctly match any potential participants' prior knowledge and expertise. The project therefore aims to run a beta test of the diagnostics under development for these modules.

Although the diagnostic tool will be online, we are looking into alternate methods (with ITS) to make these available, as alternatives to the Web Content Management System.

### **Outcomes & Deliverables**

An on-line diagnostic tool for each of the three entry levels for the modules currently in development. The resulting diagnostic tool will act as a framework for further use in new modules.

### **Sustainability**

This project is part of a wider initiative in SBS, previously funded by BBSRC MTI, to create a blended learning framework that will appeal to a number of participants; International and Home students seeking flexible learning, science professionals seeking CPD, returners to work and working individuals seeking to enhance their understanding of complementary modern bioscience techniques.

We are working with other directorates, such as the Digitally Ready Team and the International Office, which will help ensure sustainability of the courses and methods under consideration, leading to development.

Further funding is being sought via HEA Collaborative Teaching Development Grant (Jan 2013).

### **Project Schedule**

Flexible start and end dates are expected and will equal 2 weeks full-time work. The project can start immediately and extend on a part time basis over the Spring Term.

The student will be expected to work with staff members in the School of Biological Sciences (SBS) and will report to Dr K Watson (weekly supervision for progress) and Dr T Nandan (daily supervision).

This project will also involve liaising with ITS and academics.