

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Member of staff <input type="checkbox"/> Student
<b>Department School of Construction Management and Engineering</b>
<b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:m.radosavljevic@reading.ac.uk">m.radosavljevic@reading.ac.uk</a>
<b>Telephone</b> EXT 7291

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

<b>Name</b> Conor O'Connor and Ashley Davidson
<input type="checkbox"/> Member of staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student
<b>Department</b> School of Construction Management and Engineering
<b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:constructionchat@hotmail.co.uk">constructionchat@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Telephone</b>

### 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

Construction Chat Summer School

### 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*

Relevant and valuable experience can be gained from various different sources, not least from peer-to-peer support. Students often learn about the content of specific modules from previous generations and it is that transfer of experience that Conor and Ashley have transformed through the use of digital technology. They have developed and maintained Constructionchat.co.uk, a unique website that enables asynchronous and near-synchronous exchange of information between students. The website includes review library of textbooks, articles, interviews as well as highlights and news from ongoing projects. This multifaceted website can serve as a valuable resource for existing and future students, and enable employers to get in touch with students.

The aim of the Construction Chat Summer school 2013 is twofold. On one hand, the two-day gathering will promote the latest developments and different construction professions to 16-19 year-old students from local schools and colleges. Secondly, the event will promote Constructionchat.co.uk as a student-led and University-supported digital initiative to enhance student experience to invited academics and students from construction departments of regional Universities.

The summer school will span two days. Day 1 will be dedicated to 16-19 year-old students and will include short presentations and a series of exercises/games using the latest digital technologies used in the curriculum of the School of Construction Management and Engineering. Day 2 will then be focused on regional Universities and will be based on a series of workshop-style exercises using Constructionchat.co.uk as a web platform.

The main outcome of Day 1: Gaining interest from 16-19 year-old students for construction profession that will culminate in a register of attendees. This will then lead to a more robust monitoring of the conversion to Open and Visit days.

The main outcome of Day 2: Gaining interest from construction departments of other Universities in the region that are willing to adopt the Constructionchat.co.uk as a student peer-to-peer digital platform for enhance study experience. Considering its web presence, it

will be possible to monitor the growth of unique visitors online. Indirectly the summer school will also promote the University of Reading and the School's reputation as the leading provider of construction-related degrees in the country.

Considering its maturity, buy-in, structure and format, the sustainability of the summer school can be achieved by running it on an annual basis through the support from the Higher Education Academy and industry sources. Several construction companies already support this digital initiative and the indication from the industry is that this will only increase in the future.

The summer school will run over 2 days in early July 2013 and the preparations have already started. These include the TLDF-supported Augmented Reality model buildings that are currently in development and will be used during the exercises/games on day 1.