

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) by **Monday 3 December 2012**.

Applicant details

Name Christine Ellison
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Project team (Please give details of any other team members)

Name
<input type="checkbox"/> Member of staff <input type="checkbox"/> Student
Department
Email
Telephone

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

OSCAR – STAFF/STUDENT CLUSTER

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*

We are looking to set up a staff/student research cluster to research and test ways for students to get involved with the administration and participation of our new digital platform OSCAR. The **Online Studio Community at Reading**, has been developed to support the vast range of teaching and learning activities that happen across studio modules in Art, within the department itself but also off-campus and internationally.

The site is set up to function as a portal to the Art Studio Community at Reading, which has disparate locations across the globe. As such it collates to one site, the blogs, groups, feeds, and links, that map the extensive reach of the department's studio activities. Currently, most of the content has been uploaded by staff and we are keen to get students much more involved in the admin and management.

- *Aims and objectives*

We are looking to set up a staff/student cluster to research and test what students want from a digital platform and how to best resource it. The site draws on content from *Facebook, Flickr, YouTube* and *Twitter* (and links to Blackboard), but there are still disparate groups where exciting initiatives are happening that some students are participating in but not everyone knows about. We want to draw these independent silos together into OSCAR and make things visible. For example, I recently discovered this Facebook group:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Lonely-Robot/462324953803960>

Set up by a Part 3 student to chart and map projects he finds of interest in the department - many students are engaged with it but many others haven't heard of it.

The objective is to draw from the resource of our 'digitally Native' students who are inherently more fluent and aware than we mere digital immigrants when hopping between e-platforms (as Oliver Joy terms it in *What does it mean to be a digital native?*

http://edition.cnn.com/2012/12/04/business/digital-native-prensky/index.html?iid=article_sidebar).

- *Scope*

There is scope for about 3 or 4 students to get involved in approx. 3 research sessions with the digital developer from OSCAR and myself as project manager. This project emerges from a growing demand in the Art sector and the key factor is student engagement. If it takes off it will be a great asset to Reading but also a pioneering model to showcase at T&L conferences nationally and perhaps even internationally

- *Outcomes and deliverables*

A student/staff integrated site

A T&L platform that features the student body and voice in its current development, and future directions.

A dynamic platform that offers accessible portals to multiple web locations and supports fluid pathways between the disparate sites.

- *Sustainability*

If the research is successful it is anticipated that the site will become more accessible and desirable to students in which case it would become as self-sustainable as a Facebook group as they would enjoy posting and publishing to it. The department is already committed to the existing site and future technical developments have been budgeted for it out of the school budget.

- *Project schedule*

3 x 2 hour sessions in the Spring Term would get this ball rolling.

4 students at each session (1 from each cohort) + the digital developer.

£100 / student (to attend each session and to collate a specified amount of research)

=£400

+ £300 for the developer (£100/session)

=£700