

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 Clare Furneaux
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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 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

Undergraduates and Technology: uses and attitudes

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

1. Background

In 2002-03, I conducted a study examining the uses of and attitudes towards technology for study and leisure purposes of a group of Business School home/international (Chinese) Part One students. Data were collected by questionnaires, interview and diaries, and were examined from whole group and case study perspectives.

2. Aims and objectives

I would now like to repeat this study ten years on in order to:

- find out how our current Part One undergraduates are experiencing technology for study, and in their leisure time;
- compare the findings with those of ten years ago.

This ties in well with the University's interest in the transition into HE and our need to understand our students' use/expectations of technology.

My research questions, as ten years ago, are:

1. What are the roles of technology in the lives of home and international undergraduate students?
2. How do students view those roles?

If I can recruit a suitable student as a research assistant, I will involve them in using online/digital tools to help analyse the survey data, transcribe interviews and in dissemination activities such as report-writing, writing a blog post, or doing a joint presentation.

3. Scope

I shall e-mail all Part One students in Economics and HBS with a link to an online

survey of their current use of technology. I shall also ask for volunteers to take part in the next part of the study. From them, I shall choose six British and six Chinese students to study in more detail.

If all goes well, and time/resources permit, I may continue the study into their Part Two and Part Three.

4. Outcomes and deliverables

The project will deliver:

- information about current Part One Economics/Business student use of technology, for study, communication and leisure;
- detail information about technology use /attitudes of members of home and international (Chinese) groups;
- case studies of students with different profiles within those groups (eg successful/failing students).
- a picture of changes in student use of/attitudes towards technology over the last decade.

This information will be useful for the Departments/School concerned, but also for the University as a whole.

5. Sustainability

I also hope to provide research tools/ a methodology that others can adopt/adapt in future studies.

6. Project schedule

November 2012	(Already done) Gain permission for the study and attend Part One lectures in the Department of Economics and Henley Business School to explain the project and to begin recruiting volunteers.
January 2013	Send all Part One students in these two units links to the online survey. Identify volunteers. Recruit student research assistant.
January–March (Term 2)	Interview students twice during the term (start and end). Students send weekly diaries, in response to e-mailed prompts.
February	Analyse whole cohort survey responses.
February and April	Transcribe interviews.
31 May	Report on study to date and case-study proforma for Digitally Ready Project.
July	Send online survey sent to volunteer students.
August-December	Analyse data from 12 volunteers, write project report.
Oct 2013-June 2015	Continue studying the 12, if time/resources allow.