

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

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Member of staff <input type="checkbox"/> Student
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Project team (Please give details of any other team members)

Name Ms. Molly Knight and Dr. Alex Gregory
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Member of staff <input type="checkbox"/> Student
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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

Employment, Placements & Philosophy - Videos with Current and Past Students

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

The Philosophy Department and the Digital Development team are currently working on a project to update the Philosophy Department website. The small project we propose here would complement that larger Digital Development project, working in tandem with it. One key aim of the Digital Development project is to make certain information more accessible on the Philosophy Department website: information that's useful to current students and/or beneficial from the point of view of student recruitment. Another key aim is to make the website more interactive. The small project we propose would contribute to those aims, but with a specific focus on information about *work placements, graduate employment, and life as a philosophy student at Reading*.

The project and its objectives

We'd like to record videos of students – past and present – talking about their time at university, both personal and academic, their employment prospects going forward, and work placements. These videos would appear on our website serving as a tool for:

- Present students wanting to find out more about work placements
- Present students wanting to hear more about what kinds of employment are available to them on graduation
- Potential students wanting to find out more about life as a philosophy student at Reading
- Potential students wanting to find out more about what our graduates do after graduation

Some details

We will record short interviews with a small number of carefully selected past and present students (around 5 in total). We will then edit these interviews together to provide a small number of videos, each on a different topic and featuring each of the students. Our initial plan is to have:

- 1) A video on their interest in philosophy
- 2) A video on employment prospects
- 3) A video about work placements
- 4) A video about the friendly, productive atmosphere in the department and life as an undergraduate here.

As a result of a previous project supported by the Alumni Fund, led by Prof. Emma Borg, and carried out in conjunction with FTT, we already have some video interviews with past

students who have gone onto successful careers. To make best use of these, we will integrate them with our new project and with the re-vamped Philosophy Department website.

Sustainability

We intend to get assistance with editing from *ru:on*, the RUSU video and television project. However, we intend that this will be a joint venture between us and them, so that we can have greater control over the eventual product, and also so that we can gain skills which we can reapply in the future for further similar ventures. For example, in the future as part of another project, we hope to feel confident enough in our editing abilities that we could record undergraduate lectures, with some surrounding material, in a way that could be uploaded online as a recruiting tool for undergraduates.

Outcomes

- 1) A small number of videos that will benefit present students and attract greater numbers of applicants for philosophy at Reading in the future. The videos would be replaced periodically to ensure the website is kept current.
- 2) Three philosophy staff members with the skills necessary to do further video related work in the future, allowing us to create further interactive content for the departmental website in future. We aim to acquire knowledge of the video editing systems ourselves, for use on future updates. We will also design a template for future videos of a similar kind outlining a format for the interviews, to ensure that the project can be carried forward easily.

Schedule

Interviews to be completed by the 1st of March 2013.

Our target for uploading edited versions of the interviews is the 1st of April 2013.

Costs

£50 per ex-student for travel to get here (£100)

£25 per ex-student for their time (£50)

£15 per current student for their time (£45)

£200 to cover costs of editing software and assistance with using it (hopefully from *ru:on*)

£100 to each of our SDAs as an incentive payment (£300)

Total: £695