Centre for the Development of Teaching and Learning

University of Reading

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
☐ Member of staff   Dr Kimberly Watson ☐ ~~Student~~
Department School of Biological Sciences
Email k.a.watson@reading.ac.uk
Telephone 0118 378 8160

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

Name
☐ Member of staff Dr Teeroumanee Nadan ☐ ~~Student~~
Department School of Biological Sciences
Email t.nadan@reading.ac.uk
Telephone 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

Development of a blended learning framework for advanced skills training in Biosciences

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. The student will be actively involved in further development of the current 3 modules of the EEB course and contribute to the research underway to identify additional modules, ultimately leading to the development of a Graduate Training /Professional Doctorate Programme. These are crucial developments at Reading, focused on creation of a globally competitive workforce in bioscience.

Aims & Objectives

The project will involve further development of the 3 modules in EEB. This is an extension of the works carried out by Dr T. Nadan and 2 other UROP placement students over the summer 2012.

The student will have the opportunity to learn to use modern software and hardware used in teaching and learning, including e-Learning packages. The student will be trained to use video and audio recording packages and will provide assistance while doing video recording and editing. The student will learn to develop and administer Blackboard modules, together with the project supervisor. Additionally, the student will be able to participate in the Digitally Ready project case studies (as a follow-up to student participation in case studies for this project). Throughout the project, the student will assist with the integration of the developed content for each module to the overall

blended learning framework.

In the final stages of the project, the student will assist in deployment of pilot modules that constitute the framework, using graduate students and industry participants as subject groups. During the project, the student also will have the opportunity to engage in discussions with academics and subject relevant employers in an effort to understand and meet the needs of industry, thus enhancing employability. Feedback from industry and student participants will be incorporated, as appropriate, in the final framework.

This project is a continuation of two successful UROP placements run July – August 2012.

The student will have the opportunity to build essential skills in networking, modern software/hardware used in teaching and learning, high level communication (written and oral), teamwork, become aware of different learning styles and modes of delivery, become familiar with on-line methods of learning (BlackBoard) and different media formats (wikis, video, podcasts, etc). The student will develop an awareness of health and safety issues required for the residential laboratory components and will develop an awareness of issues regarding assessment and evaluation of learning. The student also will become familiar with modern biotechnologies and engage with experts in different fields of modern biosciences.

Outcomes
EEB modules 1,2 and 3

Project Schedule
Flexible start and end dates are expected and will equal 6 weeks full-time work. The project can be started immediately and extend on a part time basis over the autumn and 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 Nadan (daily supervision).