UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

LEARNING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OVERVIEW FORM

Project title	Online mineralogy and petrology		Project ID No	**CLAD – HIST030**
Strategy area/theme	Geography, earth and environmental sciences			
Start date	January 2005	Completion date	May 2006	
Project type	Learner enhancement project			
Level	All	Programme of study	All earth science degrees	
Aims	– To develop online lecture material for modules – To develop online practical classes for module – To pilot the development of online tours of geologically important localities			
Objectives	– To enhance the lecture experience through the provision of a range of learning resources based on the lecture content. Key elements of the lectures will be migrated onto WebCT so that they that are available to the students as an online resource for self-study – To develop online tutorials that describe in detail the petrological microscope and how it is used – To develop the link between large outcrops, the processes involved in their formation and their chemistry, mineralogy and petrology. This will be achieved through the development of virtual geological field trips within WebCT			
Overview	The project aimed to build on the expertise gained by geology teaching staff in order to deliver online course material, including practical classes and assessment, for undergraduate teaching in mineralogy, and igneous and metamorphic geology in general. As well as migrating the existing course content to WebCT this will provide new and innovative learning resources that will have direct applicability to other Earth Science disciplines and other subjects taught within the University. In particular, two of the proposed innovations will provide a template for other Schools within the University. In common with Medicine, Dentistry, Biological Sciences and Archaeology, Geology involves the substantial use of microscopy. Although the types of microscopy vary in detail an attempt at developing a fully functional online petrological microscope should provide a framework that these other subjects can adapt. Furthermore, the project also intends to develop online fieldtrips that will include maps, video and other resources thus providing a template for other field based subjects such as Geography and Archaeology.			
Further Information	For further information on this project please contact CLAD at University of Birmingham cladprojects@contacts.bham.ac.uk quoting CLAD projects HIST030			