LEARNING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OVERVIEW FORM

Project title	School of Computer Science Re-thinking Student Induction		Project ID No	**CLAD – HIST083**
Strategy area/theme	Learning and Progression Induction			
Start date	Aug 2010	Completion date	Aug 2011	
Project type	Learning and Progression Project			
Level	Year 1 Undergraduate	Programme of study	Not applicable to a particular programme	
Aims	To radically re-design School of Computer Science student induction process.			
Overview	The transition from school/college to university life is one of the most challenging events in a student's life and can often mean the difference between successful completion of their studies and early withdrawal from studies. Therefore we must take student induction seriously and where possible improve on current practice. Many students withdraw from higher education during the first few weeks of study. This suggests the importance of starting to build institutional and disciplinary engagement and commitment as early as possible. This can be achieved by helping students to understand the programme they are able to participate in, developing communities of learners and encouraging the formation of friendships and social networks' (Crosling, 2007:173). This paper will consequently report on work we have done over two years to redesign how we approach the early induction process for Computer Science students at Birmingham. Induction is a time and resource consuming activity. However, the advantages of good student induction should not be underestimated. If we can scaffold and facilitate the transition from school/college to university approaches to learning (e.g. independent and enquiry based) at the very start of the degree then not only will the first year experience be improved but learning and teaching will be facilitated throughout the degree. We argue therefore that time and effort spent during early induction is very worthwhile.			
Further Information	For further information on this project please contact CLAD at University of Birmingham **cladprojects@contacts.bham.ac.uk** **quoting CLAD projects HIST083 see also Learner Independence Project HIST014**			