

LEARNING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OVERVIEW FORM

Project title	Development and enhancement of problem based learning in Biosciences		Project ID No	CLAD – HIST005
Strategy area/theme	Biosciences			
Start date	September 2006	Completion date	Feb 2011	
Project type	Learner independence project			
Level	Undergraduate	Programme of study	Biosciences	
Aims	To develop the current provision of problem-based learning for a minority of students to a provision integrated into the curriculum for all cohorts.			
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To promote student-centred active learning rather passive reception of teaching 2. To give students some ownership of the learning process 3. To aid deeper learning 4. To diversify the learning experience offered to students 5. To deliver new transferable skills of problem analysis and solving, typically combined with teamwork 6. To develop and pilot new problem-based learning exercises in specified modules 			
Overview	<p>The project was designed to develop the School of Biosciences practice of providing problem-based Learning (PBL) for a minority of students, Biochemists, by integrating it into the curriculum for all cohorts. In aiming to give students a deeper understanding of the theories and principles of biosciences, traditional didactic teaching formats, such as lectures, by this interactive form of learning were complimented. The added diversity of this student-led form of learning was intended to benefit the increasingly diverse educational background of students.</p> <p>Some PBL exercises consisted of assigning undergraduates to small teams to work together to research topics. The topics were set with limited guidance that required student teams to identify key areas to research in order to deliver the required product for an exercise, for example a team pamphlet or poster. Additionally each team member delivered a short individual talk to other students who had researched different topics. Students reflected on their own contributions and those of their team-mates, and returned their appraisals. They received academic assessment of and feedback on the pamphlet or posters produced, and gave and received peer-assessment of their oral presentations.</p>			
Further Information	<p>For further information on this project please contact CLAD at University of Birmingham</p> <p>cladprojects@contacts.bham.ac.uk quoting CLAD projects HIST005</p>			