

LEARNING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OVERVIEW FORM

Project title	Methods and skills module		Project ID No	CLAD HIST081
Strategy area/theme	Sportex			
Start date	1 April 2007	Completion date	6 August 2010	
Project type	Learner independence project			
Level	Undergraduate	Programme of study		
Aims	<p>This project centres on the methods and skills module within Sportex, which we regard as pivotal in providing students with the skills to enable active and independent learning that will benefit them throughout our programme.</p> <p>The overall aim is to develop systems that will enhance students' experience in this module and optimise their capacity for independent learning.</p>			
Objectives	<p>The project will support the Methods and Skills module by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. developing systems of personalised feedback on student performance, particularly on written work 2. creating a drop-in clinic for students to seek advice and help with any aspect of the module 3. developing adjunctive material for WebCT to support module aims and objectives (e.g. normative self – administered question and answer material, revision material) 4. working with LDU, implement WebCT systems to encourage the students to actively discuss module matters with each other 5. assist in developing novel active modes of assessment 6. audit the level of success of these initiatives by comparing student feedback and performance over time 7. Take good practice for the developments with the Methods Module and adapt them for other modules as appropriate. 			

Overview	<p>Although success across our undergraduate programme requires independent study, the major piece of work demanding a high degree of independence is the final year project. All single honours students have to undertake a substantial (40-credit) research project. Increasingly, though, we have been aware that at least some of our students are poorly prepared in terms of their conceptual, bibliographic, writing, numerical, and technical skills for such an exacting requirement. Accordingly, we have recently re-organised our programme to provide better learning support in earlier years. Four new modules were introduced from this session. In both first and second year, there is now a 20-credit Practical laboratory module, where students actively acquire a range of practical techniques and learn about research conduct and methodology. In second year, there is a new Statistics module, where students learn to apply complex statistical procedures.</p> <p>Finally, there is a new first year Methods and Skills module which aims to provide students with the opportunity to develop generic skills (e.g. time management), bibliographic skills (e.g. effective use of literature search systems), presentational skills (e.g. report writing) and research skills (e.g. research methods, study design, data interpretation). Overall, these modules represent a huge investment by the School in sponsoring active learning. This project centres on the last of these modules, the Methods and Skills module, which we regard as pivotal in providing students with the skills to enable active and independent learning that will benefit them throughout our programme. The overall aim is to develop systems that will enhance students' experience in this module and optimise their capacity for independent learning.</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 HIST081</p>