



Hampshire & Isle of Wight
Lifelong Learning Network

Protect Title: **Apprentices Route to Higher Education**

Date: **June 2009**

Lead Institution: **Basingstoke College of Technology**

Contact Person: **Pauline Rachman**

Overview

(give a short overview of what has been happening since your project began)

Development of the Vocational Diploma has been borne out of the LSC's recognition that very few Apprentices or work-based learners progress to Higher Education. Learners who complete their Advanced Apprenticeship or work-based National Certificate achieve the specialist knowledge required to progress to Higher Education, but unfortunately often lack the skills required to enter Higher Education with the same confidence as their peers who follow the 'traditional 'A' Level route'. Vocational learners also miss out on the necessary advice and guidance to access Higher Education that traditional learners receive as a matter of course.

In addition, the Leitch Report proposed a target that more than 40% of adults should be skilled to graduate level by 2020. This can only be realised if the majority of those learners come from those who are already in the workplace. Research shows that 75% of the 2020 workforce is already working.

Initial meetings took place with representatives from the Open College Network South East Region, Sparsholt College and Basingstoke College of Technology. Discussions centred on the possibility of developing a 30 credit 'fast-track' Access to Higher Education Diploma and crediting the remaining 30 credits from the learner's existing or past Level 3 qualification.

It was agreed to develop a programme which related to Engineering apprentices and/or work-based BTEC National Certificate learners. Both of these groups are in employment and come into College one day a week to study their BTEC National Certificate either as a standalone programme or as part of their Apprenticeship Framework.

In order to develop a course which is suitable for progression to Higher Education, meetings and discussions took place with the University of Portsmouth Engineering and Mathematics tutors. Helpful debate and suggestions came out of the meetings and the development team responded by writing a new Unit entitled: Mathematics for Engineering (Level 3). The development team were conscious to write a 'fit for purpose' programme whereby the prospective learner could apply to a relevant degree programme including accredited programmes.

Extensive curriculum mapping took place to ensure there were 30 credits available to APL across to the HE Access Diploma.

Documentation is now complete and has been submitted for validation. Validation is scheduled for 17th June.

In addition, the development team have liaised with colleagues from Southampton Solent University who are themselves working on a similar project. The purpose of these meetings is for knowledge transfer.



Progress against 'Schedule of Work'

(please give a report of progress in line with the milestones set out in the Schedule of Work)

Milestone 1:

A 60 credit Access to HE Diploma for Engineering has been developed whereby 30 credits will be credited from existing 'specialist' Level 3 qualifications and 30 credits have been developed to make up the award. The Units include:

Unit Title	Level	Credit Value	Mandatory/Optional
APL from BTEC National Certificate	3	30	M
Statistics	3	6	M
Mathematics for Engineering	3	9	M
Developing Skills for Studying Learning	3	6	O
Developing Skills for Studying Learning	2	6	O
Independent Project and Dissemination	3	9	O
Independent Project and Dissemination	2	9	O

Milestone 2:

To deliver pilot projects: Providing a successful validation outcome, BCOT will pilot the Access to HE Diploma Engineering (for vocational learners) from December. The programme will be taught one evening a week over 24 weeks and 4 Saturday workshops. See the Appendix 1 attached.

Milestone 3:

To organise training events: OCNER are conscious that many tutors have not taught Access to HE programmes in their respective teaching roles. This will be addressed before and during the pilot programme is delivered at BCOT.

As the Access Diploma could be rolled out across all curriculum areas and all educational institutions - it is anticipated further staff training will be required.

Milestone 4:

To promote the planned programme: Promotion of the new Access Diploma will take place post-validation. However, presentations at meetings and focus groups in the Engineering Department have already taken place and there has been considerable interest.

Milestone 5:

To Liaise with LLNs to develop PAs: Progression Agreements have been discussed and implemented into the OCN Recognition Document. This will be followed up post-validation.



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Plans for the next update period

(outline of what is being planned)

- Validation scheduled for 17th June 2009
- Staff Development
- Promotion of the new Diploma
- Progression Agreements

Budget

(indicate whether you're over, under or on budget. Give reasons for any difference of more than 5% between what was predicted in your bid and actual expenditure)

- Fees that relate to development of the programme from OCNER have not been received, but expect to be on budget.
- Expenses incurred (re validation) will include travel reimbursements and catering.
- Staff Development will take place post validation and costs will be kept to budget.
- Publicity materials including Web support, stationery and postage will be kept to budget.

In summary this project expects to come in on budget.

Potential problems and issues

(please give a risk rating of High Medium or Low for **both** the impact of the problem and probability of the issue occurring)

- Unsuccessful validation - Impact would be 'high'. However, we anticipate a successful validation.

Anything else that is significant

None.

Pauline Rachman
June 2009



Appendix 1

Access to HE Diploma: Engineering (Vocational pilot)

Week N°	Session 1 1.5 hrs	Session 2 0.5 hrs	Session 3 1.0 hrs	Saturday Workshop
1	Statistics	Developing Skills for Studying and Learning	Independent Project and Dissemination	
2				
3				Week 3 Project Exploration / Approval / Action Planning
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				Week 12 Statistics - Mathematics Transition Workshop
13	Mathematics for Engineering			
14				
15				
16				Week 16 Progress Review Workshop / Action Planning
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				Week 21 Project Consolidation Workshop
22				
23				
24				

Note: A guest lecture from an HEI will also be scheduled in to the programme.