

**Project Name: Development of a Foundation Degree in Fashion & Surface Pattern for Worcester College of Technology in partnership with the University of Worcester.**

**Amendment History:**

Version No.	Date	Reason for Amendment
one	19/10/08	New Proposal

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**Document Distribution**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Action/Information</i>
Debbie Lambert	LLN	Manager of the LLN	For information
Geoffrey Elliott	UW	Members of the Steering Group	To approve the proposal
Chris Morecroft	WCT		
Ian Peake	HCT		
Mike Rookes	OU		
Gail Rothnie	UoB		
Donna Obrey	LLN	Project Officer for the LLN	To track and monitor project

**Background**

Worcester College of Technology currently provides a Level 3 National Diploma course in Fashion and Textiles located at the School of Art & Design at Barbourne. This course has been highly successful with an average of 10/15 students per year and with success rates in achievement and retention of 100%. Currently there is no local progression for students completing this course, and students wishing to continue into Higher Education need to travel over 80 miles to study a comparable course. The proposed FdA in Fashion and Surface Pattern would provide a local opportunity for progression as well as building on the existing skills, resources and employer engagement at WCT and UW. It would progress into a final year top-ups on the BA (Hons) Art & Design at UW. The course would be run in collaboration and would build on the success of existing partnership agreements between the two institutions.

**Objectives of the Project**

- To write, develop and validate a Foundation degree in Fashion & Surface Pattern
- To engage with employers to ensure that the new qualification meets the needs of industry
- To develop partnership delivery between University of Worcester (Faculty of Creative Arts and Digital Media) and Worcester College of Technology
- To ensure that the Foundation Degree progresses into the top-up for the BA (Hons) Art & Design pathways at UW.

- To produce core/mandatory modules with pathway modules to ensure the flexibility of choice for students entering the programme and to widen their employability in the industry giving speciality where required.
- To develop a model of delivery which incorporates both full and part time opportunities widening access to the course and encouraging greater participation from a more diverse range of learners.

## **Project Approach**

This project will be led by WCT but will be a partnership between WCT and UW. Members of WCT and UW staff would be bought out of teaching duties in order to develop a Foundation Degree ready for intake of students for September 2009. The project approach will include employer engagement in content development, and the foundation degree will contain significant vocationally relevant elements.

The project will meet UW quality issues at each stage of writing, and aims to be validated by May 2009.

### **Scope:**

#### **A Key Products from the project**

- Validated FdA in Fashion and Surface Pattern
- Progression agreement from BTEC
- Progression agreement to BA top-up at UW.
- Development of innovative and collaborative employer engagement.

#### **B Out of Scope**

The project will not cover the marketing of the course.

### **Constraints**

- Staff availability and time
- Agreement between institutional bodies (UW and WCT)
- Involvement of industry representatives

### **Initial Project Case**

The funding will be used to enable some release of teaching duties for key staff to carry out the networking, research and produce the course documents.

### **Benefits of the Project**

To students –

- Development of new progression opportunity in Fashion and Surface Pattern
- Access to part-time and flexible learning for learners employed in the industry.
- To develop vocational and academic skills in Fashion and Surface Pattern
- To increase student employability by embedding the traditions of the Fashion Industry in the qualification

To employers -

- To develop strong links between the Fashion Industry and Higher Education
- To provide access to student work placements

- To develop a new qualification that is relevant to the needs of employers and the sector.

To UW and WCT –

- To increase student numbers
- To continue to develop collaborative working with partner institution
- To increase students numbers on the BA (Hons) top up degree at UW,

### Key Assumptions

The availability of the key members of staff to complete the project on time  
Approval and validation by UW

### Timescale

To complete the project by May 2009  
To commence teaching on the course in September 2009

### Costs

Based on cover for teaching hours to allow designated staff to produce documentation , organisation of research into industrial liason opportunities the procurement of external advisors and the development of an on line tutor role. Estimated costs of £5000.

### How will the project be evaluated?

Number of students on the course  
Number of students achieving the Foundation degree  
Number of students progressing onto degrees  
Positive feedback from industry relating to students employability

### How will the project be sustained?

UW and WCT to continue to deliver this course once developed

### Initial Risk Log

The following table summarises the risks that have been identified that may prevent the project being completed to the required quality, budget and timescale. The probability and impact of each risk has been graded as low, medium or high to indicate the relative importance attached to each element of risk.

Risks	Probability	Impact	Containment Plan
The lack of time for key members of the team	low	high	Search for other staff to join the team
Course not approved by University	low	High	Work with University to address issues delay students entry to Jan 2009
Courses not successfully validated	low	High	Monitoring of course development, cooperation with UW staff

## **Project Team**

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