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Research Education Students Peer Online Network Support Environment (RESPONSE)

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Quick Gains:

- Provide a 'mechanism' to support on-line collaborative research learning for part-time overseas students
- Students from a wide variety of countries will be able to collaborate in a research environment to support learning
- Students will feel less 'isolated'.

Contribution to School/wider University e-learning development:

Supporting overseas students has long been an area requiring support and development. This initiative will help to 'bridge the gap' between researchers of different backgrounds and cultures.

Outcome:

Initially we held discussions about which type of website to use. We found that Community@Nottingham worked well in terms of scope and content. An invitation was sent to part-time students informing them of the purpose of the site and giving them instructions on how to access it. At present we have 25 students (from various countries) logging into the site. Feedback has been received and taken on board for improvement. Students were asked to upload their 'research profile'. Many students logged onto the Nottingham site but then failed to go one step further by finding the 'RESPONSE' community. Some students who were experienced in using this type of technology found it easy and used multiple parts of the site e.g. blogs, comment wall etc. As the site continues to grow, the feedback grows, too. We are taking note and improving the site technically and administratively.