Website context: ePioneers home → ePioneers programme

## ePioneers Programme Proposal

**E-learning Strategy Group**

**School of Education's Agenda for Change**

**Proposals for the e-Pioneers Programme 2005-2006**

**Summary**
The e-Learning Strategy Group proposes to identify and form a team of 6-10 e-pioneers within the School of Education who will adopt, trial, and disseminate innovative ways of supporting research, teaching and learning, and administration with new technologies. The focus will be on ' quick-gain' methods that projects elsewhere have shown to offer substantial benefits for relatively low effort.

**Rationale**
- To move forward e-learning developments in the school in a rigorous and structured way.
- Progress and development will be monitored using the MIT/Becta five-level maturity model. We intend to move the whole school from level two to level three ie from the Co-ordinated level to the Transformative level.
- To deliver effectively the School Plan (current and future) in terms of embedding e-learning into the whole school.
- To build on research and development already carried out by the school's e-Learning Strategy Group to bring about a whole school culture change through enhancing research, learning and teaching, and administration.
- To disseminate good practice in relation to the university's e-learning strategy.

**Deliverables**

***School wide impact***
The Group has developed an outline for a programme to impact on all elements of School operations with specific deliverables:
- Greater student participation in online course discussions through methods of managing structured discussion.
- Use of online team support tools to assist small group learning, project work and research coordination.
- Development and use of online formative assessment.
- Use of online methods such as FAQs and alerts to assist course administration.
- Use of blogs to support individual and group reflective practice.
- Use of digital re-usable learning objects (RLOs) to support student learning and staff development.
- Use of online methods e.g. e-portfolios to support student learning and continuing professional development (CPD)

++ This document is intended to be read as part of the ePioneers website ++
ePioneers: Taking ownership of e-learning
www.nottingham.ac.uk/epioneers/

### University wide impact
Training materials including case studies to support other schools in transforming their e-learning implementation from the 'cottage industry
level of interested individuals, to strategic development of the whole school.


### Methods
To build and co-ordinate three strands (areas of activity) – learning design team, pedagogy and research forum, e-organisation (whole school)  – across the school to include research, learning and teaching, and administration.

### (i) Pioneering Programme
Volunteers will be sought to pioneer the implementation of established 'quick gain' e-learning approaches in their area. The pioneers will work in pairs and will be supported by mentors drawn from the pool of staff currently familiar with the approaches in question, and with the technologies concerned. Each team will also receive technical assistance provided through the LSRI and the CETLs. The strategic intention will be to grow a community of practice among the pioneers, and also for each pioneer to have an impact on existing communities of practice in their area.

### (ii) Funding
We shall require funds to buy out some administration time of the Pioneers, and/or to provide them with administrative support. We also need funds to support the production of the transferable training materials and dissemination of results. The School will contribute to the Agenda for Change by making available staff for mentoring the pioneers, by coordinating the activities and researching the process. We estimate that a one-year programme of 10 pioneers will need £40,000 for administrative support and £5,000 for dissemination activities.

### (iii) Evaluation
A project steering group, drawn from the e-Learning Strategy Group, will design and conduct formative evaluation with participants (including pioneers, mentors, students and other staff as appropriate) in order to inform the development of the project. The success criteria will include:
1. successful adoption of an innovative technology-based methods by each pioneer,
2. demonstrable transformation of research, teaching and learning, or administration by new patterns of learning, course coordination, or communication,
3. dissemination of results through training materials and a training workshop open to all university staff.

### Dissemination
The School of Education will present itself as a case study of a large school making the strategic move from co-ordinated but essentially localised e-learning development, to school-wide transformative and embedded use of e-learning approaches. This will include the development of project web pages, and the hosting of a dissemination event for other schools. It is anticipated that research papers will be published by the School' s new online press, and that these will be included in the School's return for the RAE.

The e-learning Strategy Group is represented by all sections of the school.
(membership list included)

++ This document is intended to be read as part of the ePioneers website ++
ePioneers: Taking ownership of e-learning
www.nottingham.ac.uk/epioneers/