

*This document provides detailed information on the module named below. It will be updated as necessary when modifications to the module are approved. Modules are allocated to a Subject Network not a programme, and may be accessed by students studying on different programmes.*

## **DEVELOPING POTENTIAL THROUGH PLACEMENT**

### **a Aims**

This module will enable participants to:

- identify and investigate a significant area of enquiry relevant to the professional context of participants and which represents a significant challenge in relation to their present level of employment;
- define clear aims and objectives for the enquiry, informed by knowledge of current literature in negotiation with the supervisor and a member of the identified placement organisation;
- justify the choice of the identified placement organisation as a focus for an investigation of this particular topic;
- plan, organise and undertake a placement in the identified organisation demonstrating key principles of project management;
- reflect on the experience and identify ways in which the findings can inform development within their own organisation.

### **b Intended learning outcomes**

On successful completion of this module participants will be able to:

- clarify a complex problem and identify ways in which it may be investigated through a study of practice in a comparable organisation in the light of current debate;
- in discussion with the host organisation and the Supervisor, plan and negotiate the aims and objectives of a placement and list the anticipated outcomes;
- analyse their findings from a placement experience and propose recommendations to their own organisation or to themselves from these;
- reflect critically on the personal professional development achieved and identify future development needs both for the individual and their own organisation.

### **c Indicative content**

After appropriate background reading and study, participants will identify a focus for the enquiry, which is relevant to their role and the development issues, which they face in a professional context. Both the focus of the enquiry and the location and nature of the placement will be agreed with the module tutor, participant's employer and a representative of the host organisation at an early stage of the module.

Participants will arrange access to appropriate resources and people. The placement will normally be for one week, or equivalent.

The focus of the enquiry might be:

- Management issues relating to: Quality, People, External Environment, Strategic, Financial, Curriculum;
- Support issues relating to: Guidance and Counselling, Financial Guidance, Learning Support, Marketing, Staff Development, Learning Environments; Product or Curriculum Development.

Work undertaken in this module may establish a basis for investigation in later research modules

**d Mode(s) of delivery and support for teaching and learning**

Face-to-face	0 hours or	... %
Video-conference	0 hours or	... %
Supported online learning	40 hours or	... %
Self-directed learning	110 hours	... %
Total activity	150	100%

**e Assessment**

1. a formal proposal setting out the plans and rationale for the placement – 1000 words (20%);
2. a reflective review of the placement experience as a vehicle for professional development, with identification and analysis of critical incidents – 2000 words (60%) (Use of a reflective log would help students to achieve 1 and 2 above, and will be encouraged but not assessed);
3. a report for the participant’s own organisation, which identifies and details proposals for change, based on the module experience and contains as and appendix a digest for the host organisation – 1000 words (20%).

**f Key learning resources**

**Reading List:**

**Recommended**

**Bennett, N., Glatter, R., and Levacic, R.,** 1994, *Improving Educational Management - Through Research and Consultancy*. Open University Press. ISBN: 1853962775.

**Crawford, M. et al.** (Eds), 1994, *Educational Management in Action: A Collection of Case Studies*. Open University Press. ISBN: 1853962767.

**Bell, J.** 1999. *Doing Your Research Project: A Guide for First-time Researchers in Education and Social Science*. Open University Press. ISBN: 0335203884.

Digitised items of reading materials will be supplied to students during the module, and students will be referred to on-line journals, accessible through UHI membership of EBSCO and Infotrac.

**g Additional background information**

A predominately student centred approach will be taken to the work within this module. The skills of investigation will be developed through the study of a number of articles focussing on research ethics, change, and analysis for improvement and consultancy practice. Different approaches to investigation will also be considered along with the methods of data collection, analysis and presentation. Students will be introduced to the demands of maintaining a reflective journal. The journal will be kept, and facilitated electronically.

Students will be required to review and reflect on their own professional development in practice, analytically and evaluatively.

Tutoring will primarily be one-to-one with the module tutor. Tutorials initially will be focussed on identifying an appropriate focus for the placement and agreeing the learning outcomes. Further tutorials will take place after the placement in order to aid reflection and identify learning outcomes achieved.

**A notional breakdown of hours for this module:**

Planning/negotiating 50 hrs

Placement 50 hrs

Analysis and evaluation 50 hrs

**TOTAL 150 HRS**

**h Specialist resource requirements**

- internet access to web and e-mail facilities;
- access to a PC and printer;
- access to on-line library resources.