

Dissemination Partner Case Study (6)

Foundation Degree at Queens University, Belfast

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Background

One of the pilot studies in Foundation degrees is Creative Multimedia, a QUB qualification run at North Down and Ards Institute of Further and Higher Education. The first students are now in their 2nd year. There is a similar programme in Web Technology at Omagh College. Students who wish to will progress to top-up degrees (tailored to their Foundation degrees) in the Computer Science department at QUB.

Good Practice

Specified lecturer in QUB acts as link with colleges. She will also be in charge of top-up degrees.

Use of Materials

They adopted our layout and style as being clear and attractive for a loose-leaf student handbook.

Handbook included:

Covering letter from QUB course director

General information about Foundation Degrees

Information about specific programme

Structure of academic year, semesters, dates etc

Modules and CATS points – general information

Specific modules for their degree

Profile for each module

Regulations

Submission of coursework – layout, referencing, cover sheet, no of copies

Work experience information

This is the top layer of the hierarchy – the lower layers are not yet in place, but some SPAT materials might fit at this level. C.2 was identified as a useful leaflet.

Masters in Computing also has handbook with similar material. They adopted the idea of a sheet with contact phone numbers (support services).

Other Issues

Partnership issues seem to be raised here.

- There is confusion between QUB regulations, given to students in course handbook, and college regulations, given to students in college handbook. Students may not realise they are governed by QUB regulations.
- Registration was more complicated and took longer – students needed more information on procedure and time, particularly part-timers.
- QUB had difficulty getting information about modules and some of these were later changed.
- There must be mechanism to make sure college implements QUB procedures, ie on handing in work, as specified in handbook.
- Students need more information on articulation to top-up degree.