

C-SAP: LTSN Centre for Learning & Teaching – Sociology, Anthropology and Politics

For office use only	
Project Ref:	/ /04

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C-SAP Project Funding 2004

APPLICATION FORM

This application form should be completed electronically and emailed to Michelle Poole, C-SAP Projects Administrator on email: michelle.poole@c-sap.bham.ac.uk. Applications should address all relevant headings, as these headings also inform the selection criteria. Any additional information such as institutional letters of support and/or one-page CVs may be appended to the email as word files. The closing date for applications is **midday on Monday 5 January 2004**. All submissions will be acknowledged by return email – late applications will not be accepted.

1. Lead Institution

(Please state Project Leader(s) name, position and full address, telephone & email)

(NOTE: Tab down to next question)

University of Cambridge
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2. Partner Institution(s)

(Please state contact name(s), position and full address, telephone & email)

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3. Project Title (150 characters max)

Sex, Drugs and RLOs: creative approaches to multidisciplinary eLearning

4. Project Area(s) (Please tick where appropriate)

Student Recruitment & Retention	Postgraduate Training	E-Learning	Disciplinary Knowledge: Its Applications and Student Learning	Widening Participation and Learning & Teaching
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5. Project Discipline(s) (Please tick where appropriate)

Sociology	Anthropology	Politics
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Timescale:

- State specify key stages/milestones of project over a 12 month period (1 March 2004 – 31 March 2005)
- Include C-SAP Conferences (March 2004) & (November 2005)
- Include C-SAP mid-term progress report (September 2004) and final 'Findings' report (April 2005)

March 04 Project begins, C-SAP conference presentation, key contributors identified, newsgroup initiated, project advisory board established
 April/May/June 3 content creation workshops (Cambridge, Durham, UEA)

July/Aug/Sept content development, 4 RLOs developed and catalogued
September C-SAP mid-term progress report
October/November Use in teaching and student evaluations
December Analysis of evaluations
Jan/Feb 05 Further content development
March Final report and dissemination
April 'Findings' report
November C-SAP conference dissemination

7. Summary: (300 words max)

- Provide rationale for the activity and hoped-for outcomes

A collaborative multidisciplinary project to create reusable learning objects (RLOs) for use and evaluation in Sociology and Anthropology, including its constituent fields (Biological, Medical and Sociocultural Anthropology). RLOs are stand-alone “chunks” of interactive web-based multimedia, which support a single learning objective. Being flexible, they can be used and reused across disciplines. Universities' Collaboration in eLearning (UCeL) has pioneered innovative and creative methods for successful content creation, quality assurance, development, reuse and evaluation. These methods will be used to ensure consistency in the multidisciplinary RLOs this project aims to produce.

Two broad topics have been identified as particularly salient across the above disciplines: sex (including sexually transmitted disease and reproduction) and drugs (including drug dependency). These two topics will form the basis for multidisciplinary development of a collection of eLearning resources that can subsequently be used and evaluated by all project participants. Content will be developed to reflect the social, cultural, biological and health aspects of these issues and will be located in a comparative, global and local context. Valuable student input at an early stage in the development lifecycle will be ensured through provision of a number of student bursaries.

Building on the C-SAP funded SHIELD project (Sociologies of Health & Illness ELearning Databank), this project will:

- Identify the ways in which subject matter can be effectively deployed and reused across disciplines
- “Unlock” subject expertise to create specifications which can be developed into RLOs
- Hold hands-on, practical workshops to create and evaluate content, at 3 of the partner institutions
- Provide student bursaries for input into the workshops
- Develop a collection of RLOs, including innovative interactive exercises, and make them accessible to all UK HE Faculty
- Evaluate the collection across different cohorts of students using a consistent evaluation tool
- Analyse and publish evaluation results
- Hold an interdisciplinary mini-conference to disseminate and raise awareness
- Ensure sustainability of the collection by embedding into teaching and learning practice
- Publish a final report both in print and on the web site

8. Aims, Approaches & Activities: (2,500 words max)

- Aims: What is the project trying to do?
- Learning and teaching dimensions of the project
- Research questions and relevant theoretical/educational literature
- Project design and methods (including student involvement)
- How does the project address C-SAP's working principles?
- Details of proposed activity
- Staff and Student involvement
- Kinds of support requested from C-SAP
- Types of collaboration with other institutions

Currently there is enormous interest in reusable learning objects, although very few concrete examples of good practice can be found. UCeL is a multidisciplinary UK HE national collective creating, sharing and evaluating eLearning resources in the form of reusable learning objects (RLOs). It is pioneering methods of “unlocking content”, that is, helping subject experts organise their materials into a format suitable for RLO development. It is

also developing repositories of RLOs and their component parts. It has a robust, two-stage peer-review system to ensure accuracy and fitness for purpose. It is also developing an evaluation tool which is being piloted at each of its 6 partner sites. This will allow accurate comparisons of many different cohorts of students across different disciplines and institutions as they evaluate RLOs that have been accessed in a variety of settings. It is intended to widely disseminate these findings. All UCeL processes, methods and documentation are open source and freely downloadable from the website.

This proposal aims to address the needs of educators to have high quality content available to enhance their core teaching and learning activities, to support and guide them in creating their own materials and to promote multidisciplinary sharing and reuse of these valuable resources.

UCeL runs acclaimed national content creation workshops to help academics and developers understand the processes involved and to encourage them to create their own shareable content. It is intended to hold a series of these workshops at three of the partner sites at an early stage in the project to "kick-start" content creation. The workshops will bring together multidisciplinary groups of subject experts on each of the three workshop issues (sexually transmitted diseases, reproduction and drug dependency), each with their own "take" on the two broad topics of sex and drugs. These topics have been identified because of their obvious local and global importance, and because they have generated intense and productive interdisciplinary dialogue. These experts will brainstorm to identify single learning objectives to form the basis for content creation. Group discussions will determine which learning objectives will produce the most broadly generalisable and therefore shareable and reusable content. The key deliverables of each workshop are the content specifications which can subsequently be refined and then developed into reusable learning objects. Students will be offered bursaries to attend the workshops and input their creative ideas and critical evaluations into the content creation process. (If student numbers exceed bursary funding available then a competition will be run to select the most creative and critically aware). A visiting, roving artist will provide illustrations for the content being produced which will form the basis for the media ingredients that are subsequently created.

Out of the resulting content specifications, eight will be selected for development into RLOs (four to be funded by C-SAP). Content experts will be commissioned to develop and refine the specifications they created in the workshops. Media ingredients (images, video if applicable, simulations, animations and audio) to support the learning objective will be prepared and catalogued. Unlike most currently available e-learning resources, which only present content, the RLOs will teach key skills needed across the represented disciplines. For instance, students will learn practical statistical methods using real data collected by the project organisers. Links with other web sites will encourage students to learn about use of web resources and critical evaluation of on-line materials. The RLOs will be developed by developers at the Centre for Applied Research in Educational Technologies (CARET) using UCeL templates. UCeL's robust two-stage peer-review process will ensure quality of materials.

The central research question is how shareable can these collaborative resources effectively be made to be? To discover this they must first be created and developed and then used and evaluated in practice (see evaluation section below). By harnessing the expertise of a number of subject experts in different fields of study (Sociology and Biological, Medical and Sociocultural Anthropology) a multifaceted picture can be built up around a particular issue (such as drug dependency) which can then be deconstructed into single learning objectives. Which of these facets or views will produce the most shareable content? Will students find it valuable, memorable and engaging? These questions can be answered by practical application of UCeL processes and methods. The objective is to build a community of practice where sharing is a sensible and welcome solution to potential areas of teaching and learning problems. This involves cultural and political shifts as well as encouraging staff and students to embrace new technologies, but UCeL has proved that this can be achieved.

9. Outcomes & Dissemination: (500 words max)

- Intended project outcomes and materials for dissemination
- Plans for dissemination (including workshops, events, C-SAP Findings)
- Benefits to your institution and to the disciplinary community

There will be wide dissemination of both the RLOs themselves and also the processes and methodologies through publications, presentations, press releases and conferences. Models of collaborative multidisciplinary working will be embedded in practice by practical use of the resources and by sharing the experiences with staff and students. Thus a community of practice can be facilitated. It is hoped that C-SAP will provide support and their network for dissemination practices and would promote the workshops and raise awareness of the project throughout the constituency.

Specific project outcomes are:

TOTAL COST OF PROJECT	£26800
TOTAL INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT/MATCH FUNDING	£11800
TOTAL REQUESTED FROM C-SAP	£15000