

CPHC LDG Enterprise & Entrepreneurship in the Computing Curriculum

*“Work Related Learning” module and Student Enterprise Workshop
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Where does the course fit in your curriculum?

The School of Computing launched the monthly Student Enterprise Workshop (SEW) series in October 2009, so far 26 workshops have been organized. These workshops aim to encourage enterprise & entrepreneurship, make our students more aware of what is happening in industry, by inviting speakers from commercial partners, entrepreneurs, our alumni and other businesses and organisations.

As far as the curriculum is concerned, in our school, the enterprise & entrepreneurship education is integrated into a much enhanced “placement” module. We named it “Work Related Learning” module. To complete this module, students can choose a number of options. These include to write a business plan, work as freelance software developer, doing a traditional work placement, or join the school’s internal business unit to solve a real life IT problems. The School has an internal business unit, which offers Start-Ups, SME’s and Social Enterprises a fantastic opportunity to have small to medium size projects delivered for free. It offers an opportunity for these solutions to be developed for free by students in this module – working individually or in teams. Students gain degree credits on the module whilst developing invaluable professional skills and experience through working on these real client-driven projects.

There is a 15-credit Work Related Learning module at 2nd year and one at 3rd year level. All students on our computing courses can take it as an optional module, however for selective courses such as BSc Computing degree, it is a core module. There are no pre-requisites apart from reaching the appropriate year/level of their course.

There are about 300 students taking the modules in 2012/13. The majority of the students actually take on opportunities to do a project for the school’s internal business unit.

What is covered in the course?

- How to be of service - and unlock exceptional value for yourself and others.
- Responsibility - for your own thoughts and actions to determine the future you want.
- Living with integrity - being true to yourself about your brilliance and what holds you back from achieving your aspirations.
- Exploring mentoring aspects among the student/graduate participants.
- Exploring the use of social media such as LinkedIn to find employment, business/enterprise opportunities.
- Enterprise competitions.

- Showcasing student enterprise success.
- Project management skills.

What is the format of the course?

- A start-up workshop
- A series of interview sessions
- Matching students with supervisors and work/enterprise opportunities.
- Invited guest speakers (e.g entrepreneurs, businessman, HR officers from big companies, successful alumni) on carefully chosen topics.
- Students submit weekly learning logs to VLE to report progress.
- Weekly drop-in sessions to meet tutors
- Placement visit by tutors
- Final portfolio submission
- Oral presentation for 3rd year students

How are students assessed?

For 2nd year students:

100% portfolio: report, weekly learning logs, feedback from employer/client/tutor.

For 3rd year students:

75% Final portfolio: report, weekly learning logs, feedback from employer/client/tutor.

25% oral presentation

Expect students to spend 150 hours on this 15-credit module.

Course textbooks and materials

In addition to the module booklet and lecture slides from guest speakers, the following textbooks are recommended:

Durrant A., Rhodes G., Young D., (2011), Getting Started with University-level Work Based Learning, 2nd edition, Libri Publishing, ISBN-10: 1907471219

Ruth Helyer R., (2010), The Work-Based Learning Student Handbook (Palgrave Study Skills), Palgrave Macmillan, ISBN-10: 0230229565

Fanthome C., (2004), Work Placements: A Survival Guide for Students (Palgrave Study Guides), Palgrave Macmillan, ISBN-10: 1403934347

Why do you teach the course this way?

This module was last reviewed in 2012 as part of the university-wide curriculum review.

A recent report produced by High Filters Research has indicated that many employers are unlikely to offer jobs to those graduates who have no previous work experience. There is no better way to apply and build on student's academic skills and abilities by tackling real life problems. This module aims to provide students with opportunities to explore their entrepreneurial abilities, and gain a useful experience of the working environment.

Integration

Students are encouraged to continue the chosen topic or project in their "final year project" module where it is appropriate. This is only a recommendation.

Other comments

None.