

**LEARNING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OVERVIEW FORM**

Project title	Creating a high-quality distance learning Public Service MBA programme	Project ID No	CLAD – HIST071
Strategy area/theme	Public policy School of Public Policy/Intl Development		
Start date	June 2005	Completion date	August 2006
Project type	Learner enhancement project		
Level		Programme of study	Public Service MBA
Aims	The School aims to create a high-quality distance learning programme that offers off-campus students a learning experience as rich as that provided in the classroom.		
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To provide training and support that introduces staff to various distance learning technologies and methodologies, giving them confidence in selecting between and using various media and methods for teaching and assessment.</li> <li>2. To develop a template for distance learning modules that provides students with the necessary information and reading materials in a paper-based form, incorporates meaningful interaction with the material, and includes meaningful on-line discussions/activities to draw students into the learning community.</li> <li>3. To develop support systems and structures within the School to ensure that students have a high-quality learning experience.</li> <li>4. To pilot distance learning materials and use feedback from the pilot to improve future versions.</li> <li>5. To investigate barriers to making materials culturally relevant to students from different backgrounds and identify means to reduce or overcome these barriers.</li> </ol> <p>To prepare results on culturally-relevant materials for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.</p>		
Overview	<p>The project will support the School of Public Policy's initiative to create a distance learning version of the Public Service MBA with the aim of creating a high-quality programme that offers students a learning experience as rich as that provided in the classroom. The priorities will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To facilitate interactive learning for DL students in order to create a robust and effective learning community;</li> <li>• To develop and provide high-quality learner support to students;</li> <li>• To support students from many different backgrounds / countries to learn from each other and be able to draw lessons that apply to their own situations.</li> </ul>		
Further Information	<p>For further information on this project please contact CLAD at University of Birmingham</p> <p><a href="mailto:cladprojects@contacts.bham.ac.uk">cladprojects@contacts.bham.ac.uk</a> quoting CLAD projects HIST071</p>		