



Ref. No.

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**Projects on Promoting Outcome-Based Education
2010-12
Application for OBE Funding**

PART I: General Information

1. Title

Pilot Project for Conducting Institutional and Programme Learning Outcome Assessment with an Electronic System

2. Name(s) of Applicant(s)

Project Leader

Name	Dept	Post	Groupwise	Ext.
Louis SHUN	EDC	Learning Technologist	etlouis	7149

Team Member(s)

Name	Dept	Post	Groupwise	Ext.
Kam Por KWAN	VPAD	Special Assistant to VPAD	etkpkwan	6320
Jianrong SUN	EDC	EDO	etjrsun	4414
Winnie WONG	ITS	Computing Officer	itwinnie	5916
Esmond MOK	LSGI	Professor	lsemok	5953
Bo WU	LSGI	Assistant Professor	lsbowu	4335
Edward LO	EE	Associate Professor	eewclo	6144

3. Total funding requested

HK\$ _____

4. Expected duration of project: 26 months

Proposed commencement date: June 1st 2011

Expected completion date: August 31th 2013

PART II: DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

1. Project objectives and significance

(What are your objectives in initiating this project? How does it align with the goals and targets of the University, your faculty/ school or your department in implementing OBE?)

In early 2011, a number of projects have been proposed by departments to develop electronic systems to facilitate the assessment of learning outcome for academic programmes. Projects including “Developing an Electronic System to Monitor the Alignment of Programme Outcomes in the Curriculum and the Development of Students’ Programme Learning Outcomes” proposed by Professor Esmond Mok, and “Development of a Set of user Friendly Rubrics for the Assessment of Institutional Learning Outcomes” proposed by Dr. Edward Lo had been considered favourably by reviewers.

During the consultation visit of departments by LTC, teachers have also indicated the needs for a more streamlined and systematic approach to facilitate the assessment of programme and subject outcomes in PolyU.

Meanwhile, an add-on module named “Blackboard Outcome System (BbOS)” will be included as part of the new learning management (Blackboard 9.1) that would be available in September 2011. BbOS is a generic and flexible platform with a large repertoire of tools to support the data collection and analysis for conducting learning outcome assessment.

Identifying this general need and the opportunity presented with the availability of BbOS, VP(AD) has commissioned EDC to further expand on the OBE projects proposed to an institutional level and undertake a pilot study to explore the use of an electronic system to support the overall learning outcome activities in PolyU.

This document presents the proposed approach, schedule, target users and resource requirements of a 26-month project to pilot the use of the BbOS to support and facilitate the administration of institutional (ILOA) and programme (PLOA) learning outcome assessment in PolyU by:

- Partnering with selected departments to formalize their PLOAP and model the process in an electronic system to facilitate their work.
- Modelling within the BbOS the “Outcomes Hierarchy”, consisting of organizational hierarchy, programme and subject structure, outcome statements, curriculum mapping and alignment, as well as assessment rubrics for the departments to be piloted.
- Constructing and implementing data collection mechanisms within BbOS to extract data throughout students’ years of study in accordance to the needs of ILOA and PLOA.
- Exploring analysis and reporting methodologies and constructing electronic templates of outcome assessment reports using the facilities available within BbOS for -LOA and PLOA.
- Evaluating the long term feasibility, effectiveness and resource implication of using BbOS to facilitate ILOA and PLOA.

2. Target users

(Who are the intended users of the deliverables of the project?)

Implementation of the proposed system to target users could be divided into two stages as illustrated in the following table:

Phase	Major Activities	Target Users
Stage 1 Pilot	The systems would be pilot tested for the assessment of a small sample of programme-level outcomes in one semester.	Programme leaders, programme team members, subject leaders and administrative support staff in LSGI and other participating departments.
Stage 2 Pilot	Upon completion of the Stage 1 Pilot and further development, the system will be piloted for the assessment of outcomes for selected academic programmes as well as selected institutional outcomes in PolyU.	Senior administrators and management of PolyU. Programme leaders, programme team members, subject leaders and administrative support staff in LSGI and other participating departments.

3. Outcomes and deliverables

(a) Major outcomes and deliverables

	Major outcomes and deliverables with descriptions
(a)	Identify a comprehensive set of feature requirements of an electronic system to support ILOA and PLOA
(b)	Implement a computerized model of "Outcomes Hierarchy" consisting of hierarchical structure, academic programme, subjects, outcome statements, assessment rubrics, curriculum maps and alignments, as well as outcome assessment plans
(c)	Configure and customize BbOS to support the use of programme-level and institutional rubrics for outcome assessments
(d)	Configure and customize the data collection mechanisms of BbOS to aggregate data throughout students' years of study from the learning management system and other external data sources
(e)	Customize report templates to fit the PolyU context for ILOA and PLOA and explore the use of different analysis and assessment methodologies, including the use of weighted aggregation of outcome results and longitudinal tracking of student performance over the entire study period.
(f)	Evaluate the long term feasibility and resource implication of using BbOS to facilitate ILOA and PLOA

(b) Plan for developing and piloting / implementing the deliverables

The following table listed the overall timeline and major deliverables of the projects:

Date	Activities	Deliverable(s)
June 2011 – July 2011	Initial design and modelling of data for BbOS	Initial system requirements Computerized model of Outcome Hierarchy for initial pilot
Aug 2011 – Sept 2011	Preparation for Initial Pilot	Programme-level rubrics for outcome assessments Data collection mechanisms for selected outcomes
Oct 2011 – Dec 2011	Initial pilot	Pilot evaluation report
Jan 2012 – July 2012	Full development	Further develop the models, data collection mechanisms and assessment reports
Aug 2012 – Jul 2013	Large Scale Pilot	PLOA for whole programmes ILOA for selected outcomes Evaluation activities
Aug 2012 – Jul 2013	Soliciting Feedbacks and Further development	Present to F/S/DLTC members, programme leaders and other stakeholders across PolyU to demonstrate the system to solicit feedback Further development of system to incorporate needs collected in the feedback
Aug 2012 –	Evaluation Dissemination	Evaluation of the pilot project Seminar, Training Workshops, System Website, User Guides

Planned pilot / implementation period of the deliverables:

Start Date (dd/mm/yyyy): Sept 2011 Aug 2012

End Date (dd/mm/yyyy): Dec 2011 July 2013

4. Dissemination and sharing plan

(How are you going to disseminate and share the outcomes and deliverables of your project?)

The following activities and deliverables are planned for the dissemination and sharing of the outcome of this project:

Activities/Deliverables	Description
Introduction Seminar	Seminar introducing the project and BbOS to stakeholders in PolyU will be organized. Academic team members who have participated in the pilots will also be invited to share experience and best practices.
Project Website	A website will be created to outline the objectives of the projects as well as to share experience, best practices and other useful materials for using BbOS for PLOA.

5. Evaluation plan

The quality of the outcomes and deliverables of the proposed project will be measured by the following criteria:

- Collection of outcome assessment data – How effective is the system in collecting data from various sources for outcome assessment?
- Analysis and reporting – How flexible and comprehensive is the system in supporting the aggregation of collected data and facilitate the actual analysis and assessment of outcomes?
- Technical feasibility – What kind of technical infrastructure and support will be required to support the use of the system on an institutional level for all academic programmes in PolyU?
- Long-term sustainability – What would be the resource requirement to sustain and support the use of the system in PolyU in the long run?

Evaluation of the outcomes and deliverables will be implemented as a two-stage plan:

- Interim Review – formative assessment will be conducted for Stage 1 Pilot to investigate the quality and effectiveness of the system. Assumptions made when designing the system will also be reviewed against experiences gained and problems encountered in the pilot. Evaluation results will be published in the Pilot Report.
- Final Evaluation –summative evaluation of the effectiveness and feasibility will be conducted towards the end of the project. Evaluation activities will be incorporated into Stage 2 Pilot aiming both to measure quality as well as to identify issues for further fine tuning. Evaluation results will be published in the Project Completion Report.

Primary instruments of evaluation in the interim review and final evaluation including:

- User surveys – user surveys will be conducted to investigate the quality of the system and explore room for improvement for future development.
- Focus group interviews –focus group interviews will be conducted with staff in different roles such as programme leaders, subject leaders, administrative staff and university administrators to explore their experience in using the system.
- Demonstration and feedback collection in relevant committee – demonstration sessions will be organized to present the system to major stakeholders in PolyU, such as the OBE Working Group, LTC and the LTCs in individual faculties and schools. Feedback solicited will be used to further fine tune the system to fit the needs of departments across the University.

6. Impact

The potential impacts of employing a centrally supported electronic system to facilitate outcome assessment include:

- Streamlining the process – with a clearly defined model and framework established by the electronic system, outcome assessment activities and the collection of relevant data can be managed and stored within one single system. Staff in all level will be able to focus on the actual assessment of outcomes and save significant time in managing the logistics of data collection and coordination of assessment activities.
- Consolidation of data and reports – the use of the system allows the University to consolidate assessment data and reports in a central location and disseminate the findings to relevant parties with little management overhead.
- Timely access of data – the availability of data related to academic activities in the University over time would facilitate timely analysis of topics and issues of interests for senior administrators of the university as well as for the management staff in faculties and schools.

PART III: BUDGET OF PROPOSAL

***Important Notes**

1. Funding requests for equipment and/ or software will be considered only if:
 - a. the equipment / software is essential to the successful implementation of the project, AND
 - b. it is not available in the department concerned. The Project Leader has the responsibility to check this out.
2. The purchasing policies and procedures of FO must be followed for the procurement of approved items.
3. Funding request for conference attendance will not be considered.

Dept: Date:

PART IV: ENDORSEMENT

Endorsement by Head of Department (Host Department of the project leader):

Comments on the proposal:

Name: Signature: Date:
(in block letters)

Endorsement by Chair of F/SLTC (Host Faculty/School of the project leader):

Comments on the proposal:

Name: Signature: Date:
(in block letters)

Endorsement by Dean of Faculty/ Director of School (Host Faculty/School of the project leader):

1. Comments on the proposal:

2. Priority of the proposal (if there is more than 1 submission from the Faculty/School):

Name: Signature: Date:
(in block letters)

Please return this form to Miss Kevinia Cheung,
Secretary of the Working Group on Outcome-Based Education, c/o Educational Development Centre
by **14 January 2011**