



TIES: Teaching Improvement and Equipment Scheme

2008 Small Grant Project Report¹

Project Title

School of Languages and Cultures eLearning Project

\$ Amount Awarded

\$6500

Brief Outline of the Project

One of the key goals (Goal 5) of both the University of Sydney and the Faculty of Arts Teaching and Learning Plans is to *enhance student learning in an information rich environment*. In an institution that provides a predominantly campus-based learning experience, this involves introducing elearning components into the curriculum that are complementary to and integrated with face-to-face learning activities.

This project was designed to support twelve members of academic staff in five departments in the School of Languages and Cultures as they work towards developing a blended learning experience for students in their programs of study. The project has complemented other professional development and support opportunities offered by the University and the Faculty, by providing a situated learning experience for staff, in which learning takes place in the context, both social and physical, in which it is used.

Support has been provided to the following twelve colleagues in the School:

Chinese Studies: Irene (Shidong) An, Yiyang Wang

Germanic Studies: Andrea Bandhauer, Birte Geisler, Yixu Lu

Korean Studies: Duk-Soo Park

Spanish Studies: Maria del Carmen Montesdeoca, Nidia Castrillon, Kathryn Cramer

Japanese Studies: Rebecca Suter, Lionel Babicz, Hiroko Cockerill

Project Outcomes

The key outcomes of this project are:

1. *increased elearning coverage* in the following programs of study: Chinese Studies, Germanic Studies and Korean Studies. These subject areas had few or no elearning components before the project began. By Semester One, 2009, each of these subject areas will have at least some units of study with WebCT sites.
2. *more consistent student access to flexible learning opportunities* in the following programs of study: Spanish Studies and Japanese Studies. Some units of study in these subject areas had some elearning components before the project began. Both of these departments are now well on the way towards offering students a more consistent elearning experience.
3. *an increase in the level of expertise and the number of models of elearning development* in the School of Languages and Cultures.

¹ This form is to be completed for all successful 2008 TIES Small Grants and sent to the Executive Officer (Learning and Teaching) by the closing date 30 January 2009.

Where will project outcomes be documented (in journal publication or conference paper)?


An article on the project outcomes will be submitted to the quarterly electronic magazine *Language and Culture*.

What is the next step? Or, how may the outcomes of this project be replicated and good practice spread across the University?

The increase in the level of expertise and the number of models of elearning development in the School will be shared both within departments and more widely across the School. This process of sharing has already begun (for example, with an eLearning workshop held in the School, with the assistance of the Arts eLearning Team, on 28 May 2008) and will continue in 2009.

The model of eLearning professional development used in this project – a situated learning experience, in which learning takes place in the context in which it will be used – has now been adopted by the Arts eLearning Team. An eLearning instructional designer has been appointed and is now available for each of the four Schools in the Faculty, to support staff on an individual basis.

Project Representative's

Name	Nerida Jarkey
Signature	
Date	30/01/09