



## Faculty of Applied Science and Textiles Strategic Professional Development Plan for Blended Learning

### Purpose

This document describes activities to be undertaken as part of the 3C Project to increase the use of blended learning approaches in the Faculty of Applied Science and Textiles (FAST). It focuses on the aims and objectives for the Faculty and sets out a plan of action to achieve identified goals.

### Key Staff

The following staff were involved in the development of this Strategic Professional Development Plan for Blended Learning for FAST:

Professor Kwok-Yin Wong, Dean	Faculty of Applied Science and Textiles
Dr Jimmy Lam, eLearning Advocate 3C Project	Institute of Textiles and Clothing
Dr CK Chan, eLearning Advocate 3C Project	Department of Applied Mathematics
Mr Peter Duffy, 3C Project Leader	3C Project, Educational Development Centre
Dr Christine Armatas, Senior Project Fellow	3C Project, Educational Development Centre

### Background

The 3C project is a 2 year institutional initiative at PolyU funded by VP(AD) in support of PolyU's strategic plan. The broad aim of the 3C Project is to enhance the eLearning / Blended Learning culture at PolyU. The approach used to address this is through the use of the 3 concurrent foci (3C) of collaboration, community and context. For more information please refer to [www.3c.edc.polyu.edu.hk](http://www.3c.edc.polyu.edu.hk).

The activities described in this plan have been developed after consultation with the two eLearning Advocates for the Faculty of Applied Science and Textiles– Dr CK Chan and Dr Jimmy Lam.

### Key Drivers

The Faculty is faced with a number of key challenges over the next few years, including the introduction of the 3+3+4 education model, outcomes-based education, Freshmen seminars and Capstone projects. The increased use of blended learning will assist in managing these key challenges by providing staff with skills and experience to help them to teach more effectively and efficiently, using new approaches that incorporate eLearning technologies. It is envisaged that staff will be able to use technology to enhance the teaching and learning experience both in and outside of class, and to help students become independent learners.



## Aim of the strategy

The aim of the strategy is to provide a framework for the provision of support and training for staff in the adoption of blended learning approaches in subjects taught in the Faculty. This strategy is aligned with the Hong Kong PolyTechnic University Strategic Plan 2008/09-2011/12.

## Professional Development Goals

The action plan detailed in this document is designed to:

1. increase staff awareness of the range of eLearning tools available and their application in educational contexts;
2. inform staff about what blended learning is and to help them to explore possibilities for its application in their teaching;
3. help staff to acquire the skills needed to adopt appropriate blended learning approaches in their teaching;
4. provide staff with resources to assist them adopting blended learning in their teaching;
5. promote best-practice in the use of blended learning to enhance teaching and learning at PolyU.

## Activities for the Strategic Professional Development Plan for Blended Learning

### Promotion of the 3C Project at the Demonstration of eLearning Project for the Department of Applied Mathematics

The 3C Project Team will attend this event and use the opportunity to invite staff in the Department to suggest activities for the project which would benefit them and help them to increase their use of blended learning. Dr Chan will liaise with the 3C Team regarding the date and venue. It is anticipated that the demonstration session will happen around the end of June.

### Blended Learning Roadshow

A Faculty blended learning roadshow will be held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of semester 1, after staff have completed the GRF. Staff in the Faculty who have eLearning Projects (e.g., funded through eLDSS or OPD and eScholars) will be asked to attend and contribute to an informal discussion and sharing session about eLearning and blended learning. From this Roadshow, activities for the Faculty that can be undertaken through the 3C Project will be developed.

### Professional development workshops

A series of workshops for the Faculty will be held to address specific concerns or needs of staff in FAST. These could include:

- using technology to motivate students to learn;
- tools to make using eLearning easier;
- using templates to create online learning environments.

The number of workshops to be conducted and their topics will be developed after feedback from Faculty staff, such as through the Blended Learning Roadshow.



### Statistics Simulator Project

Since the Department of Applied Mathematics does a lot of service teaching for other areas relating to statistics, the 3C Project Team will contact Dr Ernest So to invite him to be part of the Statistics Simulator Project currently being developed jointly with eLDSS. The Department also has a statistical advisory project, so Dr Marjorie Chiu will also be invited to participate in this project to see whether these simulators could be applied to their consultancy work.

### Evaluation

Each activity undertaken for this Strategic Professional Development Plan for Blended Learning will be evaluated using a protocol developed by the staff involved in organising the activity. The evaluation could be completed using methods such as:

- questionnaires
- uptake and usage statistics
- focus group feedback

The result of these evaluations will be reported as per the Communications Plan.

### Communications Plan

Progress on the implementation of the Strategic Professional Development Plan for Blended Learning will be communicated in the following ways:

- through reports to the Faculty and School / Department Learning and Teaching Committees;
- via the monthly 3C eNewsletter and on the 3C project website;
- at events or activities conducted as part of the 3C Project or as part of the Strategic Professional Development Plan;
- through emails and other means as required.



## 3C - What's in IT for me?

### Action Plan

The table below indicates the activities planned as part of this Strategic Professional Development Plan for the Faculty, together with the participants and indicative timelines. Which activities address the goals for the Plan is also indicated in the table.

Activity	Participants	Indicative Dates	Goals Addressed
Promotion of the 3C Project at the Demonstration of eLearning Project for the Department of Applied Mathematics	Mr Peter Duffy & Dr Christine Armatas, 3C Project Team Dr CK Chan, Faculty eLearning Advocate Dr Xiaohang Zheng, Faculty eLearning Advocate	End of June 2009	1, 2 & 5
Blended Learning Roadshow	Mr Peter Duffy & Dr Christine Armatas, 3C Project Team Dr CK Chan, Faculty eLearning Advocate Dr Jimmy Lam, Faculty eLearning Advocate	October 2009	1, 2 & 5
Professional development workshops	Mr Peter Duffy & Dr Christine Armatas, 3C Project Team* Dr CK Chan, Faculty eLearning Advocate Dr Jimmy Lam, Faculty eLearning Advocate	Semester 2, 2010	3, 4 & 5
Statistics Simulator Project	Mr Peter Duffy & Dr Christine Armatas, 3C Project Team* Dr Marjorie Chiu, Department of Applied Mathematics Dr Ernest So, Department of Applied Mathematics	June 2009 – May 2010	1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

\* The 3C Project Team will involve staff from Educational Development Centre as required for each of these activities.



## 3C - What's in IT for me?

Additional activities to be held as part of the 3C Project which the Faculty can have involvement with are:

Activity	Organisers	Participants	Indicative Dates
eLearning Showcase	3C Project Team	Open to all PolyU staff	16 <sup>th</sup> October 2009
Teaching Innovation Award	3C Project Team	Open to all PolyU staff	12 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2009 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2010
Faculty events with invited eLearning consultants	Mr Peter Duffy & Dr Christine Armatas, 3C Project Team Dr CK Chan, Faculty eLearning Advocate Dr Jimmy Lam, Faculty eLearning Advocate	Invited staff from Faculty	12 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2009 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2010
Teaching and Learning Symposium	Mr Peter Duffy & Dr Christine Armatas, 3C Project Team Dr CK Chan, Faculty eLearning Advocate Dr Jimmy Lam, Faculty eLearning Advocate	Open to all PolyU staff	4 <sup>th</sup> June 2010
Technology to address teaching challenges – Workshops	Mr Peter Duffy & Dr Christine Armatas, 3C Project Team Dr CK Chan, Faculty eLearning Advocate Dr Jimmy Lam, Faculty eLearning Advocate	Open to all PolyU staff	Early Semester 2, 2009