The ‘dual hub’: Shared responsibility for developing and internationalising the curriculum of Business courses

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Funds approved

$55,000

Funds acquitted (attach financial statement)

$55,570

Introduction

The Dual Hub project draws upon the knowledge and experiences of academic staff at RMIT International University Vietnam (RIUV) to develop internationalised learning resources for courses in the Bachelor of Commerce. The intended outcomes of the project are:

1. An increasing partnership in sharing responsibility for course development.
3. An enhanced relationship between the dual hubs based on collaboration.

An increasing number of academic staff are being employed at the South...
Saigon and Hanoi campuses to teach business degrees, the majority of whom have relevant working experience in Vietnam and other parts of Asia. Little effort has been made to draw upon their previous work experiences to systematically enrich the curriculum of business courses. It appeared an untapped opportunity to internationalise our courses with work-related learning resources developed by a significant pool of talented staff in Vietnam.

It is envisaged that internationally-relevant resources will also be used in Vietnam and Melbourne and in courses taught in business degrees in offshore locations such as Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and China. As we move to realising our vision of “dual hubs” it will be essential that a shared responsibility be taken by both Melbourne and Vietnam hubs to develop curricula that enrich the education of business students across all our campuses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Detailed project description and outline of what was done</th>
<th>Refer to pp 5-7 of the Final Report.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attach the full and detailed report and evaluation of your project outcomes including evidence of the impact the project has had. Also make reference to how the outcomes address the five key objectives:</td>
<td>See Final Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Improved student learning experiences, outcomes and employment opportunities</td>
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<td>- Innovation</td>
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<td>- Strategic alignment</td>
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<td>- University wide application</td>
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<td>- Value for money</td>
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<td>Dissemination of project outcomes both completed and planned. This should include both within RMIT and externally.</td>
<td>The key project outcomes will be disseminated through a seminar held by the Academic Development Group, College of Business in Melbourne in 2009. Outcomes to staff at RIUV will follow a similar dissemination method</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary of the project, outcomes, impacts and dissemination</td>
<td>The Dual Hub project draws upon the knowledge and experience of academic staff at RMIT International University Vietnam to improve student learning by developing internationalised learning resources for courses in the Bachelor of Commerce. It aims to increase partnerships in sharing responsibility for course development and enhancing the relationship between the dual hubs based on collaboration. Learning resources for five courses were developed to provide engaging internationalised learning experiences for students in participating courses of the Bachelor of Commerce. Interviews with Course Coordinators and focus groups of students of Business Case Study and Organisational Behaviour revealed that the learning resources helped to improve student learning experience by developing discipline-specific knowledge and skills through their application in dynamic, complex and situational contexts. Interviews with participating Vietnam staff revealed highly positive responses to the collaborative project processes</td>
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employed and the partnerships developed.

Observations and critical reflections helped demonstrate how the individual operational contexts and historical practices of RMIT Melbourne and Vietnam hubs limited the extent to which a shared responsibility for course development could be realised. Similarly, these contexts and practices limited the potential delivery of the learning resources in onshore and other offshore locations. This evaluation suggests that further collaborative work of this kind will only help to expose and question an outdated status quo, and help to begin to realise a shared responsibility of course development by the Melbourne and Vietnam hubs.

The key project outcomes will be disseminated through a College of Business seminar held by the Academic Development Group in 2009, and through similar methods in Vietnam. The outcomes of the Dual Hub project have informed the conceptualisation and planning of future projects in the College of Business beginning in 2009.