



## JISC RSC Scotland South & West Case Study @ Ayr College

### Implementing the eSkills for eLearning course



eSkills for eLearning consists of eight half-day (three hour) workshops designed to cover the essential skills and knowledge which are needed by teaching practitioners to enable them to use technology for teaching & learning. The course was devised and delivered by the JISC RSC Scotland South & West during 2006. In 2007, the RSC began to roll-out the programme to supported institutions and implemented a training transfer strategy whereby the RSC assisted colleges in delivering the training in-

house. Each of the eight modules of the eSkills course were revised and a comprehensive tutor pack was devised to accompany the training materials. Staff Developers from supported institutions were invited to attend an induction event outlining the eSkills Training Transfer Strategy and the RSC support available.

Ayr College implemented the eSkills Training Transfer Model and has successfully rolled out the eSkills programme within the college. They participated in the original training delivered by RSC staff. Staff from the College attended the half-day induction workshop held at the RSC offices. The college was provided with a mentor from the RSC team who acted as the main point of contact for all issues and support relating to the eSkills Training Transfer.

The college has run the course successfully twice to date. The original plan had been to run the eSkills Programme three times over the academic year, but this is now being re-evaluated and is likely to be offered twice a year to fall in line with the college moving to a two-semester system. They now plan to invite the new Curriculum Leaders who have been in place since the recent re-structuring to participate in the course. The college has thirteen curriculum areas and each Curriculum Manager is asked to nominate at least one member of their team to participate every time the eSkills training is offered, although this has not always been possible.

The eSkills Course is publicised internally in the college via posters in staff areas and in the Flexible Learning Unit & Library. Support from Senior Management at the college has been integral in getting the programme up and running which has included encouragement from the Principal via email. Participants are given the course materials in a ring-bound pack with electronic materials on CD and also available on the college VLE. The course runs on eight consecutive Fridays (if possible) and this has resulted in some juggling of teaching timetables.

The programme is delivered entirely by staff from the college. This is a team effort involving the Staff Developer, the Blended Learning Manager, The Learning Technologist, the Learning Support Team and staff from the Computing Department. Technical Staff are also on hand to ensure the Computer labs have the appropriate software and plug-ins required.

A number of lessons have been learned from the implementation of the eSkills Training Transfer at Ayr College. Bette Hay, the Staff Development Officer at the college has pointed out how important it has been to have right people in place to deliver the course. It has also been useful to have a person dedicated to the college VLE (Moodle) involved in the delivery of the course. The fact that the majority of those involved in the delivery team are widely known throughout the college (particularly those involved from a central service such as the Flexible Learning Unit) has been important. She was also keen to ensure that part-time staff were given the opportunity to participate on the course.

***"I now have greater ability in adapting teaching and learning materials."***

***"I will definitely be using e-learning to deliver a new course I am currently developing."***

Staff feedback has been positive and those involved have been focused and motivated. Staff participating in the course whilst undertaking the TQ(FE) have found it useful, as have those involved in the SQA eAssessment Unit. A Curriculum Leader has encouraged other members of the department to participate in the course and they are now adopting technology in their subject area.

***"This was an excellent course and I have learned a great deal. The problem now is to put the learning into practice!"***

Bette is happy for others who are considering implementing the eSkills Training Transfer Strategy to get in touch with her if they have any questions and be contacted by email ([b.hay@ayrcoll.ac.uk](mailto:b.hay@ayrcoll.ac.uk)).