‘Grow Your Own: Expanding capacity through KT Grants’

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KT Grants

• HEIF

• Support UW Strategic Plan KTIE remit
  – Achieve synergy between scholarship, research, teaching, KT, enterprise
  – Outstanding expertise in selected areas securing international recognition

• Business Development Office managed
KT Grants - Objectives

• Encourage further development of current and future research to promote a culture of RKTIE at University of Worcester

• Encourage collaborative working and commercialisation of research
KT Grants - Process

- KT Grant Reviews
- £20,000 grants
- 3 stages
KT Grants - Process

1. **Proof of Concept / Market Research** (guideline up to £2k)

   - Test commercial viability of innovative business ideas
   - Undertake detailed analysis of market and competitive position
     - Conducting customer trials
   - Securing IP advice and protection
2. Project Development (guideline to £5k)

- Developing projects from concept to stage where they are ready to be implemented as a full project
  - Engagement of partners & co-ordination of steering/management groups
- Promotion & marketing of product/service prior to implementation
- Development of existing knowledge/research in readiness to take commercial opportunities
3. Implementation of Project (guideline to £13k)

- Developed project proposals to market
- Management of the project
- Match funding for larger scale projects
KT Grant - Successes

2006 – 2010

• 25 applications
• 18 successful projects
• £135,000 grants awarded
• 4 grant applications currently being reviewed
KT Grant - Successes

Examples of Innovative Projects:

• A Blended learning Approach to Modern Foreign Language Acquisition
  – Collaboration of FE & HE in providing BLC for lesser taught & higher level modern foreign languages eg Arabic
  – Use of WIMBA as VLE allowing participants from across country
  – Presentations at the LLAS E-learning Symposium 2010; Association of University Language Centres conference
  – Partners; Coventry & Aston University, WCT
KT Grant - Successes

Examples of Innovative Projects:

• Psychometric Testing
  – design, development and promotion of Level A and Level B Psychometric Test training courses
  – accredited by the British Psychological Society.
  – First course was run in June 2007
  – course commended as ‘excellent’ by British Psychological Society
  – first distance learning Level A course fully accredited - BPS
KT Grants – Recipient Perspective

- Why essential for development
- How use them
- What have the grants enabled centre to achieve
- Thoughts on process
Why essential for development

• Lack of ‘time’ to do the work – enables ‘buy-out’ OR new employment
• Gives the work ‘credibility’ and status
• Gives formality - budget/ reporting
• Recognised within workload
• Benefits from advice from assessing grant panel
How use them?

• To pump-prime large projects with long-term potential:
  – Psychometric Test Training Courses
  – Commercialisation of CCI
What have the grants enabled centre to achieve?

• Status as an established training centre for BPS Level A and B psychometric test training courses
• Regular income - ‘Bread and butter’ product
• Provision of valuable experience for post-graduate students
• Engagement with business community
• Development of UW Personnel staff and UW students
Thoughts on process?

• Responsive to feedback and modifiable!
• Invaluable for kick-starting new initiatives
**KT Grants - Future**

- Gain Feedback from applicants
- Develop grants in line with feedback
- Continue grant programme
- Budget £66k allocated 2010/2011
- Continue to report to RKTIE committee on KT grant success & promote best practice externally
Contact

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