

D6 - ACODE benchmarking

Informing principles

The Australasian Council on Open, Distance and E-Learning (ACODE), of which USQ is a member, has developed a suite of benchmarks for the use of technology in learning and teaching (L&T). The purpose of the benchmarks is to support continuous quality improvement in e-learning. This approach reflects an enterprise perspective, integrating the key issue of pedagogy with institutional dimensions such as planning, staff development and infrastructure provision. The benchmarks have been developed for use at the enterprise level or by the organisational areas responsible for the provision of leadership and services in this area. Each benchmark area is discrete and can be used alone or in combination with others. These Benchmarks can be used both for self assessment purposes (in one or several areas), or as part of a collaborative benchmarking exercise with other universities. The benchmarks cover the following eight separate topic areas.

1. Institution policy and governance for technology supported learning and teaching
2. Planning for, and quality improvement of the integration of technologies for L&T
3. Information technology infrastructure to support L&T
4. Pedagogical application of information and communication technology
5. Professional/staff development for the effective use of technologies for L&T
6. Staff support for the use of technologies for L&T
7. Student training for the effective use of technologies for learning
8. Student support for the use of technologies for learning

USQ will use these benchmarks both internally and with other like intuitions to provide us with an internationally recognised Quality Assurance standard for the provision of our use of technology in Learning and Teaching.

Goals

- Internally benchmark USQ's current use of technology in L&T with internationally accepted standards,
- Externally benchmark USQ's current use of technology in L&T with select internationally accepted standards,
- Provide a 'Technology in L&T framework' to be used by staff when integrating technology in their teaching, and
- Plan future benchmarking activities.

Strategic alignment

USQ Learning and Teaching plan

Details of Faculty support for an 18 month period

Faculty AD (L&T) to identify appropriate benchmarking targets.

Tasks, timelines and budgets

Tasks	Timeline
Establish firm timelines for internal benchmarking with key staff	July 08
Hold information sessions for areas to be benchmarked	July 08
Establish contact with like institution to plan benchmarking activities over next 12 months	July 08
Begin internal benchmarking	August 08
Evaluate outcomes resulting from internal benchmarking	September 08
Commence inter-institutional activity	Oct 08
Complete internal benchmarking	Dec 08
Completed Benchmarking with like institution.	March 09
Hold feedback sessions and provide framework for future integration of technology in L&T	Jul 09
Plan future inter-institutional activities	Aug 09
Close Project	Aug 09

Total Resources/ Budget Required

Level 7 project officer (.2)

Relevant section heads as part of ongoing duties

Travel to like institutions?

Professional development requirements

Staff participating in inter-institutional benchmarking activities will be required to undergo a two hour internal training sessions to become familiar with the relevant methodologies,

Scholarship opportunities

Scholarship opportunities exist in writing up the processes surrounding inter-institutional benchmarking.

Communication plan

- Communiqués to all Associate Deans (L& T)
- Monthly PRP reporting process

Evaluation strategies

DeC will conduct an evaluation of the implementation of benchmarking outcomes within six months of each activity.