



Fast-Track Apprenticeships Grant Funding Project Case Study

Name of Registered Training Organisation

Swinburne University of Technology

Title of Project

Fast track apprenticeship through blended learning in Building and Construction

Apprenticeship Details

- BCG30798 Certificate III in General Construction Apprenticeship Carpentry
- Training time reduced by six months
- Apprentice numbers – 17
- Industry Partners –
 - Housing Industry Association and associated members

Aim of the Project

Swinburne University, in conjunction with the Housing Industry Association (HIA) and selected host employers, will collaborate in a pilot program to design, develop and trial a fast track apprenticeship model. This will involve a focus group comprising HIA, Employers, Swinburne teaching staff and students in a collaborative design process to develop an integrated model that incorporates on-line and 'on and off the job' components of learning. The design phase will consider the tools and resources required to optimise access and success through a 'fast track' pathway. In design our key objective is to gain 'buy in' from industry stakeholders and to ensure that the quality of trade training is maintained

Successful Strategies / Models

Stage 2 Marketing: Any change to traditional approaches needs to be well communicated to stakeholders. Both learners and employers need to see the potential benefits, both for individuals, business and the industry. Marketing materials and information and seminar events would be part of this aspect of the project and would be managed through our partner the HIA. Their extensive membership base, promotional activities and magazine will be utilised to ensure excellent promotion and awareness of the pilot and raise awareness of the value of a fast track approach.

Stage 3 Trialling - a selected group of current second year apprentices and new first year apprentices will, with their employers support and engage in the fast track process. As the pilot group they will provide feedback and information that will allow for refinement and improvement as the trial progresses. The host employers will also form a reference group which will act as a 'sounding board' for the project.

The methodology will incorporate the best features of Swinburne's accelerated

learning model for the certificate III in General Construction – Apprenticeship Carpentry. The teaching and learning of the proposed approach will be contextualised to accommodate individual learning needs and reflect industry practices, especially those of the apprentice’s workplace. Quality measures will be based on compliance to Swinburne’s Quality system and the Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF). The strong focus on applied learning and assessment in the work place, as a part of the methodology, will enhance the proficiency of skills and knowledge in terms of their transfer to industry settings.

The training will support a culture of self-driven learning where individuals as adult learners, will be given more responsibility for their own learning and development. The target outcome is that the pilot group will reduce the time requirement for training. Apprentices will be mentored and offered study support where necessary.

Key Project Achievement

The project ran over eight months. The standard carpentry apprenticeship is a three year program. Apprentices who participated in the project reduced the length of time of their apprenticeship by up to six months. As the project included students at all year levels on entry, some apprentices reached final conclusion, some accelerated their completion of the levels. Our project will continue on so that commencing first year students in 2008 will continue to fast track to completion in 2009.

Contact Details for Further Information

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* http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/RTO/Fast_track.asp