

BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY

AMBER PUBLICATIONS AND TRAINING



About INDEX

INDEX (Innovation Delivers Expansion) is a unique demand-led innovation voucher scheme led that invites Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to apply for a voucher to purchase academic support from one of the 13 Higher Education Institutions in the West Midlands. The project is funded by Advantage West Midlands (AWM), Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Innovation Vouchers allow SMEs to purchase academic expertise knowledge to develop their innovation and enhance their business.

The Innovation Voucher scheme aims to build links between Universities and SMEs to create a demand led approach to innovation.

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About Amber Publications and Training

Amber Publications and Training LLP (APT) is a social enterprise based in the heart of inner city Birmingham whose primary mission is to design, develop and implement professional development courses and publications for early childhood policy makers, professionals and practitioners within the UK and beyond. Courses can be delivered at APT's training facilities in central Birmingham or at any suitable venue across the country or abroad. Courses may vary in length, can be modular and accumulative, and can be delivered flexibly to suit clients' needs.

Courses can be created, tailored or co-constructed to meet local requirements. APT is multidisciplinary and multi-sector, meeting the growing development needs of care, education and health professionals in state, private, voluntary or independent sector organisations.

APT is a sponsor of the Centre for Research in Early Childhood (CREC), with whom it shares offices at the St Thomas Children's Centre, a Birmingham Local Authority service. It works in partnership with CREC to add value to the Charity's impact as well as operating as an independent training organisation.

Innovation

Creative Industries/ Digital Media/ Software, Media & Communications

The Business Challenge

We have developed a training and communication programme called the AcE Programme for those involved in the development of high quality early childhood services. We are looking for expertise to help us develop a data system for entering assessments of young children so that the data collected can be systematically collated, analysed, interrogated and reported in a variety of accessible formats. We want the academic to develop the software to support the assessment system for nursery aged children (birth to five year olds). The work will add value to a training and communication programme for early years practitioners that we have developed and allow data collected to be presented and analysed in a more professional and accurate way. It will also support the profession in using the data to analyse their performance and so become more effective and efficient. We have previously worked with universities to accredit the training courses we develop and deliver.

Quote

Amber Publications & Training LLP was delighted to have won an INDEX voucher through Aston University which has contributed significantly in enhancing our new AcE programme, aimed at improving practice within Early Years settings. With the help of this scheme we have been exposed to some highly experienced IT professionals at Staffordshire University, who we chose to help us with the data systems development we needed; we found them to be professional and extremely forthcoming. They targeted the problem areas and found an effective solution satisfying all the objectives set out in the brief.

We would like to thank Aston University and the INDEX scheme for selecting us as a beneficiary. The reward has been of invaluable help in achieving our goals and adding value to our business operations.

Sean Delaney Amber Publication & Training

About the HEI



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About the Academic:

Alastair Dawes, Enterprise Reader, Enterprise, Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Technology

Alastair has been working in the field of web development for 10 years. His role now focuses on taking the knowledge from Staffs and spreading it to businesses.

With the help of one of our brightest students we have worked with Amber to create a rich internet application, which allows them to manage the information their organisation relies on.

Aston University
University College Birmingham
Coventry University
Harper Adams University College
Keele University

Open University
Newman University College Birmingham
Staffordshire University
Birmingham City University
University of Birmingham

University of Warwick
University of Wolverhampton
University of Worcester