

CASE STUDY

Sector	Engineering
University	Glyndwr University
Title	Development of Bespoke Foundation Degree

Background

Kim Dimmick met the Training Manager from UPM Papermill, Shotton, Deeside, who was looking for specific training to help develop their apprentices as there is currently no University/College in the UK that delivers this type of training. Their apprentices travel to Gernsbach College, Germany, renowned for its excellence in paper technology although costly and quite a distance away.

They also required short courses in Abrasive Wheels, Welding and 17th Edition, some of which we could not deliver but the local FE college, Yale College, could.

Challenge

Getting the right Marketing information to entice other companies for their 'buy in' and putting together a 'fit for purpose' course.

The company were looking for one person to be their project manager for all their requirements, as they didn't want to deal with multiple contacts.

Solution

Kim brought together Glyndwr's skilled Academics to help design a foundation degree in Plant Maintenance and Operations for UPM and their supply chain companies which was rolled out September 2011.

For the FE delivery Kim approached Yale College Wrexham to deliver the lower level courses that the company needed and it was agreed that Kim project manage the Yale delivery too, from quotation through to invoicing. This worked very well for all parties.

Benefits

UPM have had significant cost savings working both with Glyndwr and Yale. They have only one person initially to deal with for all their requirements which cuts down confusion.

Because of the success, we are at present designing Management training for their Supervisors, which will encompass Yale College and any other expertise that we feel UPM will need.

In addition, due to the success of the Plant Maintenance & Operations Foundation Degree, in early 2012, the Foundation Degree in Industrial Engineering was developed and rolled out in September 2012, which encompasses, Plant Maintenance, Mechatronics, Electrical, Mechanical and Automation & Instrumentation, which has been hugely successful, with not only UPM enrolling but others such as JCB, DRB, Kelloggs, to name but a few.

We have since visited Gernsbach to visit the Principal and to discuss collaboration with them and hopefully design a Degree course that encompasses 'Master Craftsman in Paper Technology'. We are now looking forward to welcoming visitors from Gernsbach in the new year to discuss this project further and hopefully, in the not too distant future, the Papermaking industry in the UK will be able to send their apprentices for skilled training which will be accredited and which they so desperately need and which will indeed bring the cost down for UK companies.