

3.2

Biosciences

Lead Organisation	Background	Targets / Milestones	Activities 2006–08
<p data-bbox="200 411 306 465">University of Brighton</p> <p data-bbox="200 491 323 514">Key Partners</p> <p data-bbox="200 534 374 916">University of Brighton, University of Chichester, City College Brighton & Hove, The Open University in the South East, Plumpton College, University of Sussex (CCE), Horticultural Technologies CoVE members</p>	<p data-bbox="429 411 774 1322">In Sussex a diverse range of high quality higher education (HE) courses in biosciences are available, provided via the key partners named above. The HE provision of Biosciences in Sussex is underpinned by several further education (FE) colleges offering vocational, pre-HE and HE access courses. The combined FE and HE provision helps to support local bioscience based industries and professions (e.g., NHS-biomedical scientists; teachers; biological technicians and ecologists) along with small and medium sized enterprises. Effective training for prospective employees and continuing professional development (CPD) for existing employees is provided. However, provision is geographically fragmented, and lacks both integration and thematic coherence. The fragmented provision and lack of integration is a barrier to uptake and can limit student progression and achievement. We will therefore work to develop an integrated and coordinated regional provision of biosciences education and training opportunities. This will support students wishing to progress from post-16 education (level 2), through HE (levels 4, 5, and 6) and onto post graduate (level 7).</p>	<p data-bbox="827 411 1112 525">1 Develop and deliver new collaborative Biosciences foundation degrees accessible to students at a range of institutions</p> <p data-bbox="827 551 1112 668">1.1 Map of existing regional FE and HE provision with areas of weakness and blocks to student access and progression identified. February 2007</p> <p data-bbox="827 719 1129 899">1.2 Common framework for course development, validation, management and quality assurance supported by a memorandum of co-operation and agreement between collaborating institutions. May 2007</p> <p data-bbox="827 919 1112 1005">1.3 Appropriate new integrated programmes of study designed and prepared for validation. July 2007</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="827 1045 1112 1096">2 Develop a range of modular based CPD opportunities from levels 4 to 7</p> <p data-bbox="827 1122 1112 1239">2.1 Assessment of potential demands and markets for subject specific and generic CPD provision March 2007</p>	<p data-bbox="1187 411 1879 779">Regional HE provision in biosciences has been developed largely independently by institutions in response to local drivers, markets and institutional ethos. To widen access and uptake by non-traditional students, the existing biosciences provision needs to be mapped, allowing the range of available 'step on' and 'step off' points to be identified and defined, along with potential blocks to progression. The curriculum group will undertake this mapping during 2006 and early 2007, identifying strengths and weaknesses in the existing provision. We will begin by establishing links with all key regional providers of biosciences in FE and HE. We will engage with potential employers and employer representative bodies, and identify potential demands and markets for subject specific and generic CPD provision. Having established the key links, we will map existing regional FE and HE provision, gathering data on the institution, course and module level, and identifying areas of weakness and blocks to student access and progression.</p> <p data-bbox="1187 805 1879 1308">By documenting and helping to coordinate student access to modules that are taught by different providers, we will establish programmes of study based on a portfolio of regionally shared courses and CPD modules in biosciences. This will allow flexible and accessible progression from level 2 to level 7. Where there is a need to increase accessibility and remove barriers to progression, we will work with partners to develop generic foundation and skills based modules, such as study skills, scientific investigation skills, chemistry, mathematics and statistics, and basic biology, accessible to students across the region. We will investigate the potential to use blended learning for the delivery of some key modules with the aim of increasing accessibility, supporting its integration into existing biosciences HE provision where appropriate. We will investigate the methods of incorporating effective part-time, full-time and distance learning modes of study into existing and planned programmes to aid progression and increase accessibility. Having reached agreement on a common framework for course development, validation, management and quality assurance, we will concentrate on the development of new foundation degree and CPD provision. Our aim is to have new named foundation degree routes taught across institutions, along with targeted Level 7 CPD provision, validated and in place by 2008/9.</p>