STUDENTS AS CHANGE AGENTS
IN LEARNING AND TEACHING APPLICATION FORM

(For an example of a completed form, see **http://www.exeter.ac.uk/as/changeagents**)

Project manager's name(s)	
Exeter Email Address(es)	
College(s)	
Campus(es)	
ExChange position(s)	
Year(s) of study	
Topic	
Outline a possible research question and why this is of importance to the College/ Department and to students	
Start and Finish date	
Outline possible ways of collecting data (*e.g. interviews, questionnaires, focus groups, audio or video, photos***) and from whom** (*e.g. academic staff, students, admin staff, central services, other*)	
Outline any help you might need / would like	
State what form your outcomes might take (*e.g. a booklet of examples of good practice, a short video of student views, a website, a report*)	
Who will benefit the most from any changes?	
Why would you like to engage with this project and what skills would you expect to gain?	
Your signature(s) **Date**	
Signature of School / Dept (Chair of Education Committee or similar) Date	I agree to the research topic selected and will ensure that the School takes note of any outcomes

Please return the form to: **Liz Dunne, Head of Project Development, Education Enhancement, Floor 7 Laver Building Phone: 01392 724510 Email: E.J.Dunne@exeter.ac.uk**

STUDENTS AS CHANGE AGENTS

Students leading change

Would you like to support your College in improving learning and teaching?
Are there issues discussed in your ExChange that need further attention?
Are there things you keep moaning about but never seem to get any better?
Do you know what students in your College feel strongly about in relation to their personal learning experiences?

**Get involved in an exciting and innovative project that helps you improve the teaching and learning in your College.
Make a difference to your own and future students' academic experience.**

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

Education Enhancement

students guild

WHAT IS THE PROJECT ABOUT?

Students from Student-Staff Liaison Committees (now known as ExChanges) are being invited to engage in an action research project in their College to look into ways of improving the learning and teaching experience.   Applicants choose their own topic of research that addresses an area of learning and/or teaching that is of concern within their College. The project is being run as a partnership between the Students' Guild and Education Enhancement, and there will be plenty of support to help you decide on the topic for research, and on how to manage, analyse and present your project.

> "We seek to engage students as partners in shaping and leading their own educational experiences through our successful and growing "students as change agents" initiative. The key concept is that students themselves take responsibility for bringing about change, based on their own research on aspects of learning and teaching"
>
> *Janice Kay, Senior DVC Education, 2010*

HELP WITH THE APPLICATION FORM

Research topic/question
Students have chosen topics such as assessment and feedback, seminar experiences, podcasts, employability, writing skills and sustainability among others. Viewing these projects will help you get an idea as to what is expected, but try to involve your own, or fellow students', original or current ideas on improving learning experiences.

Start & finish dates
Projects will run between November/December 2010 and May 2011. The Annual Change Agents Conference will run in early June.

Collecting data & help you may need
Data can be collected from students, staff or any other source. Data collection may take any form (e.g. focus groups, questionnaires, interviews, visual data) as long as it represents your research question appropriately. Help is available for all stages, for areas such as organising meetings, editing films, statistical support, literature searches, etc.

Form of your outcomes & who will benefit from these changes
Examples of outcomes include booklets, reports, videos and powerpoint slides. Try to be specific as to what your project suggests as improvements (i.e. examples of good feedback, greater use of technology) and how it helps students (it may also benefit staff), and what might be changed as a result.

PREVIOUS IDEAS FOR PROJECTS

The Business School

Students wanted: To use technology to help gain more from lectures

Findings: Students gained peer feedback on a technology pilot using clickers (voting system) in lectures. Also found students appreciated streamed video of lectures

Outcomes: Student research has supported 4000 clickers being provided and used on a regular basis, more streamed lectures and use of mobile phones for learning.

Biosciences

Students wanted: Clear advice on scientific essay writing and more exam practice

Outcomes: Essay skills guide written by students, for students, and more tutorial-style essay sessions for first years
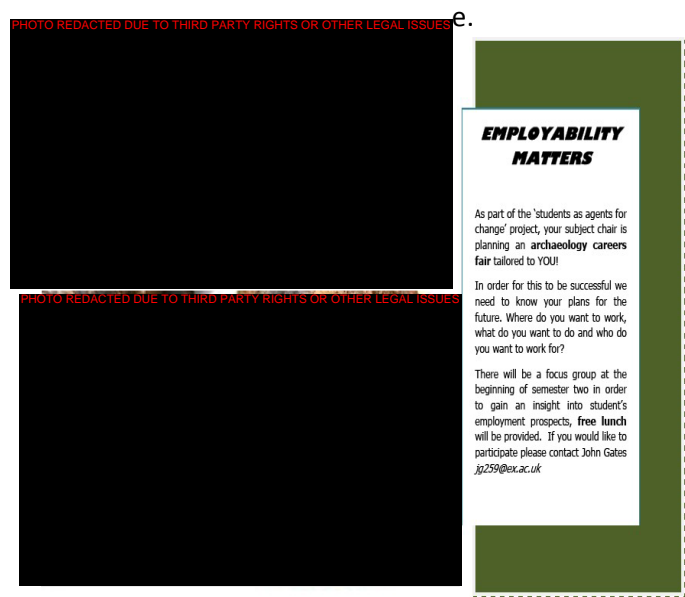
'Conducting real research into what students actually think and being able to present this information to senior staff in full knowledge that what you're saying is backed up by proof'.

Arabic and Islamic Studies Student

"Interpreting the results that we got back from the questionnaire was probably the most interesting part [and] contrasting to what I had previously thought'
History Student

"The most exciting part of this project has been...that it is possible to make a change even at such a large institution"

Business Student

WHAT YOU WILL GAIN FROM BEING INVOLVED

You will be working in a unique way to support change in your College or subject, where the voice and opinion of the students is the driving force towards improving teaching and learning . This will be highly valued by your College, fellow students and may impact on future students for years to come. You may even have an impact that e.

EMPLOYABILITY MATTERS

As part of the 'students as agents for change' project, your subject chair is planning an **archaeology careers fair** tailored to YOU!

In order for this to be successful we need to know your plans for the future. Where do you want to work, what do you want to do and who do you want to work for?

There will be a focus group at the beginning of semester two in order to gain an insight into student's employment prospects, **free lunch** will be provided. If you would like to participate please contact John Gates jg259@ex.ac.uk

On a personal level, you will gain a variety of research and organisational skills that will be valuable in your degree and on your CV, improving your employability.   Involvement in this project can also count towards The Exeter Award or the Leaders Award.

Employability Project undertaken by Archaeology students. Students felt that there was not enough information available for careers in Archaeology; 82% of students wanted a careers fair specifically designed for this subject area.
Outcomes: Careers fair organised, website updated, and monthly bulletins available

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO GET INVOLVED

1. Decide on a topic and a question that is of interest to you, concerning the teaching and learning in your subject. The topic should relate to issues brought up in your ExChange meetings and you should discuss your ideas with your fellow members.

2. Discuss your idea with the VP Academic Affairs (guildacademic@exeter.ac.uk) or Liz Dunne (Education Enhancement Project Director, E.J.Dunne@exeter.ac.uk).

3. Discussions with the Chair of the Education Committee in your College or ExChange staff members are important as you will need a staff signature on your application.

4. Complete the attached application form, and return it to Liz Dunne (at the address at the bottom of the form).

5. Your application will be reviewed by a panel of Guild and Education Enhancement staff. We would like to see at least 2 projects per College. The best applications will be selected and informed immediately.

PROJECT FUNDING, SUPPORT AND OUTCOMES

Funding for this project from the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Education pays for a Students as Change Agents Coordinator. They will be able to give you support throughout the research experience and help you:

- Work on your research question and methods of data collection and analysis
- Seek out background literature to support your question
- Organise focus groups, make phone calls, organise meetings, arrange sandwiches, refreshments etc
- Talk to staff or students, as negotiated by you
- Design and produce an end product
- Disseminate your findings

You will also be given access to photocopying or printing of materials, voice recorders, digital video cameras and other resources that would be useful to you.

This is a highly innovative project, and it will be up to you to help to shape it and to get what you need from it. Projects, over the last 2 years have been highly successful, with findings being listened to and solutions implemented in Colleges. To view previous projects visit: **http://www.exeter.ac.uk/as/changeagents**