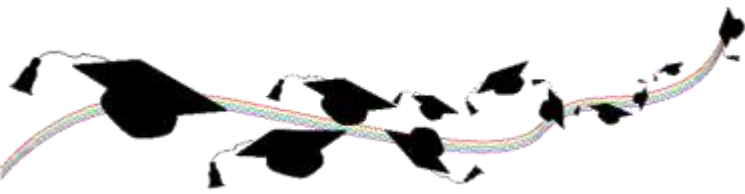




# Outduction

## Enhancing the Final Year Project

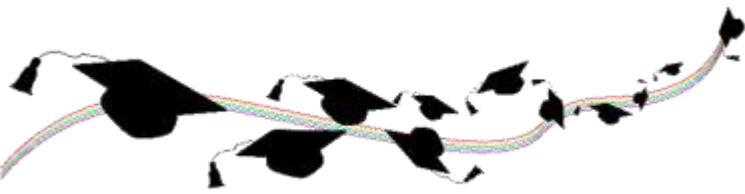
Dissemination Event  
University of Bradford  
July 20, 2011





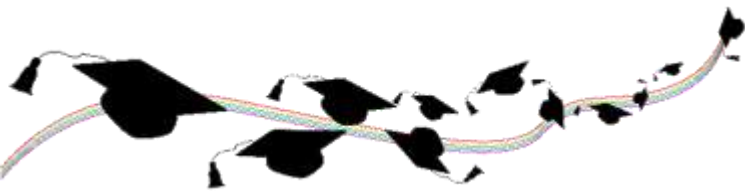
# Overview

- Context
- Some Bradford examples
- Discussion



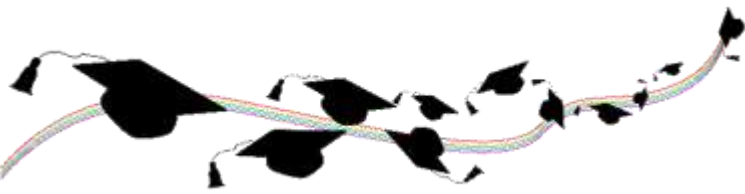
## Final Year Project: Context

- Traditionally the key test and indicator of graduateness in UK Higher Education.
- Usually an individual project/ dissertation/exhibition.
- Significant disciplinary differences.
- Typically 20-40 credits.



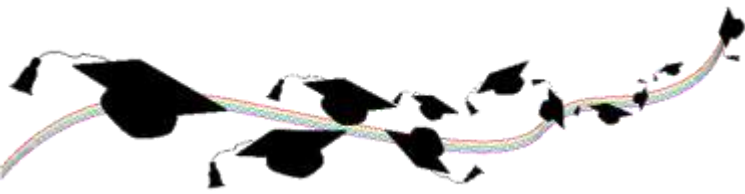
## Final Year Project: Context

- Issues include:
  - How/when learners are prepared for the project.
  - How the project title is selected (choice vs allocation).
  - Establishing equivalence in supervision regimes (student/staff experience).



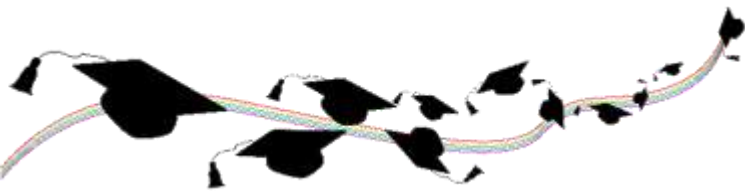
## Final Year Project: Context

- Finding the balance between valuing:
  - Product and process.
  - Subject knowledge and skill development.
  - The written word and other modes of communication.
  - ‘Academic’ and ‘real-world’.



## Some Bradford Examples

- Computing – Engaging Academic Rigour  
– Marion Bowman and Andrea Cullen
- Engineering – use of E-Portfolio Tools  
– Ray Sheriff and Felicia Ong
- EDT – Project Portal and Experience  
– Prashant Pillai





## Discussion

- What is the primary role of the final year project in UK undergraduate education?
- Are there things that students learn through completing a final year project that they don't get anywhere else?
- What advice would you offer a course team reviewing their project provision?





## Enhancing the Final Year Project 1

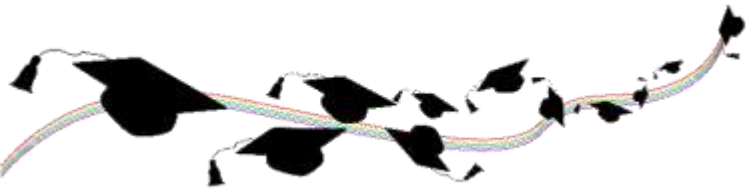
- Clarify the purpose of the project in the context of your programme of study.
- Start preparing and motivating students for the challenge of the project from Year 1.
- Identify the skills that students will need to be a success at the project, and provide support for them to develop those skills.





## Enhancing the Final Year Project 2

- Develop clear staff and student expectations around supervision and deliver to them.
- Consider alternative or multiple approaches/formats for the project.
- Celebrate and showcase student achievement.





## Related Project

[Rethinking Final Year Projects](#) - another NTFS project at the University of Gloucester.