



# The Learning Gateway

## What is the Learning Gateway?

The Learning Gateway is unlike any other space currently provided by St. Martin's. It is the focus for the College's flexible and distributed learning (FDL) developments in Cumbria and beyond, as envisioned in the Corporate Plan. It is a building being constructed on the Carlisle campus right now, with a completion date of December 2005; occupation from January 2006.

## Why is it different from existing teaching space?

It is much more than a physical building. It has been designed with the pedagogy of FDL in mind, using ICT to best advantage, to attract a diverse range of users. Under the management of Library and Information Services it will offer complete flexibility to learners and tutors wishing to develop and carry out FDL activities. This will be achieved by the careful choice of furnishings, media, IT and facilities that can be configured by the tutor or the student, giving them maximum control over the learning environment.

## What is my role in the Gateway?

The users of the building (you) will drive its development; collaboration between Faculties and Services to achieve this aim is crucial. A "learning hub" is being set up to ensure that your needs are met, consisting of various experts such as the CDLT, Library and Information Services staff and Student Development and Advisory Services staff on hand for consultancy. Fostering links between the campuses, and with partners in Cumbria, will be part of the Learning Gateway's remit.

## What facilities will be available?

The building will offer a state of the art IT infrastructure to support and promote a wide range of learning activities. It will be "wireless"; laptops will be available for loan by tutors and students whilst they are in the Gateway – giving complete freedom. There will be formal and informal learning spaces – comfortable seating and modular seating encouraging conversations.

Users will therefore be able to interact with the environment in innovative ways that are not limited by fixed furnishings and equipment. There are ten seminar rooms, all fully fitted with media equipment, and a 150 seat lecture theatre with asynchronous connectivity supporting real time video conferencing; portable VC will also be available. A programme of events will also be planned - showcasing best practice and innovation in FDL, including student contributions, staff training events and events for and by partner organisations.

## How do I get involved?

We want to hear about your ideas about how the Learning Gateway should develop and what should be available to support your courses' transition to FDL. The **Change Academy** team are also feeding into the Learning Gateway's operation. They are producing an action plan to introduce FDL into the College.

Have your say ... Please send ideas for any aspects of the Learning Gateway, including the programme of events, facilities and services, opening hours, etc to:

**Shirley Green,  
Senior Information Officer,  
Carlisle campus library**

Contact details:

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Email: [SAGreen@ucsm.ac.uk](mailto:SAGreen@ucsm.ac.uk)



# Other Library News....

## Dissertations

LIS policy on the collection of dissertations and theses has been reviewed and essentially the system has not changed. Please may we remind staff that the Library wishes to solicit copies of all postgraduate level works. Please would you also send copies of undergraduate level dissertations which have been awarded a 'First' and those containing new research, as these should also be held in the Library.

## Extra Loans for Final Year Students

Students in their final year who are working on dissertations or extended projects are allowed to borrow an extra three books from the library. However, students are required to have the signature of their supervising tutor on the form which they collect from the library.

## Intercalating Students

Students who are intercalating are not normally able to make use of Library facilities. Some students obviously need access to the library in order to complete coursework, assignments, etc before returning to College. In such cases, it would be very helpful if tutors could get in touch with a member of Library staff, so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

## Fines Amnesty

The two-week fines amnesty period has drawn to a close and anecdotal evidence suggests that this has been very popular with Library users.

This is a first for the Library and has certainly eased the pain for those borrowers who had forgotten about their loans over the summer vacation.

## Loan Allocations for Students with Special Learning Requirements

Students who have difficulty with reading are entitled to borrow books for longer than usual. Typically, a one-week loan becomes a two week loan, double slots are allocated for Short Loans, etc.

Students must be referred to SDAS for assessment first, before they can take advantage of this system.

## A-Z Journals List

This has been updated over the summer and now represents a comprehensive listing of all the Library's hard copy and electronic journals. This is accessible from either the A-Z list or from 'Databases' on the Library homepage.

## Postal Loans for Part-Time and Placement Students

This 6-month pilot project (end-date April 7<sup>th</sup> 2006) is now under way. The Library will post books out to students on part-time courses or who are on placements lasting for four weeks or more. Placement students need to register for this service in advance. Application forms are available from any site library; these need to be countersigned by a member of academic staff.

## And Finally.....

Liz Maller (Assistant Librarian at the Lancaster campus) has just represented St. Martin's College at the Evidence Based Librarianship Conference at the University of Brisbane, Australia. She presented a poster highlighting her sabbatical leave findings which looked at library provision for health students on placement.

