

Higher Education: Brighter Solutions

Simpson Associates: SOLUTIONS

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There is an ever pressing need for information management in the Higher Education sector.

The challenges

Simpson Associates are working with universities, to help them to deliver on challenges managing information.

These challenges range from: delivering on regulatory requirements, providing transparent and accessible management information, providing departmental reporting and informing effective planning and management of student services.

Addressing specifics, such as:

1. How long does it take to respond to changes imposed by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) ?
2. How easily can student course and subsequent fee information be re-forecast for management activity ?
3. How easily can the progress of individual students be tracked throughout the student lifecycle ?
4. How do faculty staff gain access to planning information held in operational systems ?
5. How are business information requirements translated into deliverables that meet the needs of the users ?

Simpson Associates are helping universities rise to these challenges and to the ever increasing demands within the sector, such as the tightening of investment budgets and efficiency constraints.

“As funds become less readily available, an organisation that can demonstrate operational efficiency and financial transparency will be rewarded in terms of future investment.”

The Times Higher Education, January 2010

How can we help ?

Simpson Associates help universities face these challenges in a number of ways. Our proven approaches deliver on a variety of needs, with the same certainty of outcome.

1. Provide a Solutions Architect

Our Solutions Architects 'bridge the gaps' between stakeholders, users and delivery teams. Stakeholders are therefore 'engaged' and projects delivered that meet the technical, commercial and organisational needs of the establishment and users.

“There is high value in a role that combines high technical competency and project process knowledge.”

Mike Cobham, London South Bank University

2. Provide repeatable solutions

We have addressed a number of specific challenges in the minefield of university management and are able to utilise this knowledge to meet a range of business and departmental needs, including: Student Planning, Student Progression, Human Resource and Statutory Reporting.

“Simpson Associates clearly have the knowledge and proven experience of the challenges in our sector. This gave us the confidence that they would deliver ...and they did.”

Laurie Nicholls, Sheffield Hallam University

3. Provide mentoring and education services

There is an ambition within the university sector to develop skills in house. Our approach to projects involves a high degree of skills transfer ensuring that skilled personnel are able to contribute and take ownership, thereby minimising cost.

“The appeal of Simpson Associates is that they are willing to work in partnership, sharing their knowledge and expertise.”

Dr Tom Loya, The University of Nottingham

4. Provide an information management roadmap

Universities are having to change in response to current demands. We can help to develop a strategic roadmap; culminating in delivery by way of a connected series of projects.

Performance is a journey ...where do you want to go?

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Our engagements include:

The demand for this support has led to a number of relationships with Universities and projects that span topics including data and information management and operational reporting, through to developing strategies relating to management information and deriving the business cases to support these.

Our clients in Higher Education are keen to continue their relationships with us, as real benefits are being realised.

London South Bank University

London South Bank University is keen to maximise its performance in the university league tables. The league tables represent a barometer to the public and can have an impact on: encouraging students to enrol, employers views of graduates, funding and staff morale.

Our efforts in delivering projects in Student Progression Reporting and the analysis of Human Resources, means they are well on their way to a programme of performance improvement, which will see them realising their ambition.

More strategically, the aim now is to deliver a university-wide source of common information, a data warehouse.

The University of Nottingham

The University of Nottingham was striving for efficiency and wanted to realise best practice in Student Planning for their Planning & Information Management Division (PMID), who support the University's planning process by providing policy advice and management information.

Our delivery of a Student Planning and Reporting solution has meant quantifiable efficiency and cost savings, plus a new self-service environment for readily available performance information to over 36 schools.

The aim now is to tackle performance indicators, to derive accurate, timely and accessible management information.

Sheffield Hallam University

Sheffield Hallam University needed to make a case for a university-wide investment in the management of information, based on the needs of countless stakeholders.

We worked with a university-wide team to capture key requirements, needs and demands for information, both now and for the future, as organisational roles and responsibilities change in line with new business processes and practices centered around a major professional services review programme.

In the Business Case, the foundations of information management delivery are supported by recommendations based on proven practices and validated benefits, plotted on a realistic roadmap to ensure a certainty of outcome.

Our clients include:

- London South Bank University
- Sheffield Hallam University
- The University of Cambridge
- The University of Derby
- The University of Nottingham
- The University of Sheffield
- Warwick University

Our partners

We have strong, long standing partner relationships with Microsoft, IBM and Cognos, an IBM Company.

About us

We are specialists in all aspects of information management solution delivery, designing, building and implementing: business reporting, metrics, financial and business planning, consolidation and bespoke applications across many disciplines. These include: requirements analysis, application and process design, system specification, project governance, education and support.

Contact us

Should you have any questions or require any further information, the team at Simpson Associates will be happy to help you with your request.

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