



Roehampton go live with Scientia’s leading Student Allocator application



Roehampton University.

“This system has enabled us to standardise a previously varied and time consuming approach to module choice. Improvements in the timeliness and quality of the management information has led to better resource allocation and improved space utilisation. The system is flexible and easy to use and allows students to make and change their selections in a controlled and efficient way, whilst also ensuring that staff are able to set constraints, thresholds and approval levels in a way which is appropriate to individual programmes.”

Pro Vice-Chancellor Chris Cobb, Roehampton University

Student Allocator improves service for students

Roehampton University has been using Scientia software for room booking, timetabling and resource management since 2000. When Scientia began development of **Student Allocator**, the University’s senior management team saw the system’s potential for improving the service for students – a key institutional goal – and for reducing the administration load. The University needed a system that could cope with complex, but very flexible, programme structures and that ensured student choices were valid within the context of these constraints. There was also a need to enable staff approval of choices on some of the programmes.

The University was involved in testing and providing feedback on early versions of the product before its first release in September 2006. The aim was to use Student Allocator for online module selection, and also for selection of activities such as tutorials, timetabled using Scientia’s Course Planner timetabling software. Another key element was the need to transfer module data from the QL student records system. Scientia provided technical consultancy to help with all aspects of systems integration, including the two-way interaction with the timetable.

Student Allocator to achieve long-term strategic goals

To ensure a coordinated implementation, Roehampton University established a project team under Student Information Systems Project Manager Marina Lim. In recognition of the importance of involving all institutional stakeholders, demonstration sessions were run in late 2006 to enable subject conveners to have an input. The team also built the programme structures for some pilot subjects, with convener input. As Roehampton found, the introduction of Student Allocator also provides an opportunity for making improvements to business processes.

“Roehampton’s partnership with Scientia has enabled us to introduce this intuitive module and timetable selection system which is robust enough to cater for the many intricacies of our curriculum and academic rules. With strong collaboration and support from our academic staff we feel that this system is not only satisfying our short-term registration needs but will continue to improve to achieve our long-term strategic goals,” said Marina Lim.

Student Allocator: Success at Roehampton University

Positive feedback

In early 2007, Roehampton University ran the first pilots, with students selecting both modules and activities. Feedback was generally positive and, where possible, comments from students and staff were taken into account for the next major challenge. This came when the system was used in May 2007 to collect the choices of over 4,000 continuing students. Within three weeks, more students had registered their choices using Student Allocator than had done so in three months under the previous system. Staff approved these, with emails sent automatically as confirmation to students. Feedback on the software was very positive – it met all the goals that had been set.

Pro Vice-Chancellor Chris Cobb said the Student Allocator was a vast improvement over the previous system.

Future plans include extending this process to new students in September 2007.

About Student Allocator

Student Allocator is part of the Enterprise suite of applications, an exciting new generation of software. It is completely integrated with Syllabus Plus planning and timetabling. Student Allocator enables the efficient on-line selection of the modules, tutorials, or other activities which form a student's academic programme.

About Roehampton University



Roehampton University in south-west London offers its students a high-quality learning experience in a friendly, supportive environment. The University's courses provide the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the 21st century.

www.roehampton.ac.uk

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