

UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE

Research in Distance Education: from present findings to future agendas

9 February 2009

9.30 – 18.30 (including evening reception)

Brunei Gallery, SOAS

Over the last decade distance learning has entered the mainstream of higher education, providing solutions to the challenges of growth, student mobility, globalisation, part-time and lifelong learning through online, blended, collaborative and resource-based learning models.

The University of London External System has more than 40,000 registered students worldwide, studying by various forms of distance learning, and it hosts one of the largest and most active research programmes in this field. The Teaching and Research Awards scheme is characterised by its multi-disciplinary nature, engaging researchers from the arts, social and natural sciences, medicine and the humanities, most of whom are also distance-learning practitioners. The conference will provide an opportunity to find out about the latest outputs from the research and to discuss new research opportunities in this area, as the External System moves beyond its 150th anniversary.

Eighteen recent projects will be presented within three strands - '**Design for learning**', '**Supporting teaching and learning**' and '**Evaluation and assessment**' - with a focus on implications for practice and for research. Other current and recent research will be presented through Posters and through an exhibition of all of the output from the Teaching and Research Awards programme, alongside other recent research and development projects into study skills, benchmarking, and professional development.

The keynote speakers are **Dr Don Olcott**, Chief Executive of the Observatory for Borderless Higher Education and **Dr Martin Oliver**, from the London Knowledge Lab who is currently on secondment to help establish the Higher Education Academy's Research Observatory. Together they will provide a sector-wide perspective on current research questions and challenges in this area. **Professor Jonathan Kydd**, Dean of the External System and **Sir Graeme Davies**, Vice-Chancellor of the University will reflect the University's priorities for research and development.

Register by email to cde@london.ac.uk, by phone on **020 7862 8404** or online at www.cde.london.ac.uk

