

## CATS Project Community of Practice Development Form

### NESCOT: Credit Transfer and Progression in Accounting and Finance

#### 1.0 Achievements to date

- Unique model proposed that could provide opportunities for multiple certifications (FD, AAT L4, Certificate of HE, SAP Certification)
- Draft module descriptions/validation documentation developed and ready for informal feedback from HEI (University of Surrey) at half-term
- A number of flexible pathways proposed including work-based modules and professional portfolio
- Successful Employer Event (10 October) attended by employers, the professional body, SAP University Alliances UK and Europe and 3 HEIs
- In principle agreement for MoU with BCU for top-up progression

#### 2.0 Problems/Challenges of developing CATS

- HEI not experienced in blended/elearning approaches
- Recognition of external assessments as proxy for HEI assessment
- Externals must be from Russell Group or 1994 Group of institutions

#### 3.0 Working across the FE/HE interface

- College Accounting teaching team not experienced in HE validations so resourcing has been an issue
- Perception of value of HE award compared to professional certifications
- Ensuring that the course meets industry needs and meet requirements for HE award
- Challenges in finding meaningful work placements

#### 4.0 Working with other agencies

- Professional body (AAT) have been highly supportive
- SAP as software vendor have been very supportive
- Very important to have good employer links to provide evidence of industry demand for course graduates etc.

#### 5.0 'Eureka' moments/Key learning outcomes for the project

- AAT, in principle, are willing to offer advanced standing for AAT L4 against HE modules

- Key market for new course is SMEs and that therefore SAP focus likely to be SME-focussed products ('Business by Design')
- Opportunity to provide multiple exit and certification points for course through smart course design

## **6.0 Emerging themes ?**

- Proposed course is seeking to develop skilled graduates with hybrid skills straddling accounting, business process and practice and leading IT business applications
- Employer event demonstrated that there is real demand from the industry for these skills