

Submission

University of Derby Corporate (UDC) accredits work-based education for major films, helping employees to gain university qualifications that are deigned to be highly relevant to their jobs. The university advises on the curriculum of corporate training programmes and on how they are assessed and develops the skills of company tutors.

The initiative has grown exponentially since 2008-09, when it brought in £800,000 a year from just eight clients and some 200 learners. In 2010-11, its income was £4 million, and it served 2,451 learners for 261 clients. Derby plans to double the programmes scale by 2015.

"From the initial conversation, right through to implementation of the programme and beyond, I've found working with UDC a refreshing and fruitful experience that has helped to provide our employees going through the programme with a quality stamp to their development," said Andy Llewellyn, head of learning and development at Citibank UK.

Hugh Tollyfield, formerly deputy director for further education and qualifications strategy at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and a member of the judging panel, said: "We had a very strong group of entries, demonstrating the excellence of UK universities in responding to the needs of business. Universities are co-creating programmes with business, and delivering learning flexibility in a range of modes, supported by well-designed rigorous assessment to meet the needs of employers.

"This is exemplified by this year's winner, University of Derby Corporate, which delivers a comprehensive, in-depth and professional business-to-business service. Derby has amassed an impressive portfolio of major UK and international company clients. It shows the sector just what can be achieved with the necessary commitment and leadership."