

Decisions about the final semester of Creative Technology

The situation as it is

The final semester of Creative Technology for pre-TOM students who take the courses of the six semester programme in the intended order and without delays, contains the following

- A Final Project of 15 EC, which runs the full 20 weeks of the semester.
- Three 5 EC courses
 - Ethics for Creative Technology (mandatory) (1)
 - Free choice of two of the following four electives
 - Academic Writing (2)
 - Entertainment Education (1)
 - Remote Care Nearby (2)
 - Communication Technology for Global Work (2)

(The numbers in brackets show in which half of the semester these elective courses are offered)

For many students the final semester of their studies is not their sixth semester, but a later one. These delayed students do not necessarily take courses in the intended order.

So in practice we see

- Students who take their 15 EC final project in the winter semester (semester 7)
- Students who combine their final project with other courses than the standard electives (e.g. they have taken (some of the) electives in semester 6 and combine their final project in semester 8 with the repair of courses they previously failed)
- Students who take only one of the four electives of the summer semester, and combine it with the single elective which is taught in the winter semester. The “winter elective” is Cyber Crime Science (6 EC), which runs the full 20 weeks of the semester.

And finally there are situations where students take only one elective (summer or winter) and combine this elective with

- A study trip theme course
- An assistantship in the graduation of a fellow Creative Technology student.

Proposal for the new situation

The final semester of Creative Technology for TOM students who take the modules of the six semester programme in the intended order and without delays, is as follows

- An exploration module which has three threads
 - Preparatory study to show mastery(4EC)
 - Academic writing (4EC)
 - Real world perspective (7EC)
- A final module which has two threads
 - Showing mastery (13 EC)
 - Reflecting (2)

The “showing mastery” thread of the final module is the core of the pre-Tom final project. But to give this TOM-style final project a flying start, the exploration module contains a 4EC thread “preparatory study”. In this new setting the final project size is 17 EC (476 hrs, 12 weeks full-time)

The mandatory elective Ethics has become part of module 7 in the TOM setting, in the exploration module we now find a mandatory thread Academic Writing instead.

The 7 EC thread Real world perspective of the preparatory module is supposed to offer the students a number of options. It is a substitute for the electives of the pre-TOM period. Important conditions on the contents of this thread are that

- they should deal with success factors for the introduction of technology
- they should look at these success factors from within a specific application domain (in addition to module 7, where success factors are an issue too, but then in general terms)
- they should provide tools (i.e. scientific insights) for reasoning about these success factors from the use (and not the technology) viewpoint, i.e. from behavioural and management sciences.

Finally, the 2 EC Reflection thread which is added to the Showing Mastery thread of the final module is supposed to help add more depth to the final thesis. I am not so sure what the exact contents could be, but I believe it is worthwhile to look at this issue together with the Philosophy Department.

Remarks regarding this proposal

1. We should offer the preparatory module in the first half of both the winter and the summer semester (twice a year), and the final module likewise in the second halves of both semesters
2. It is forbidden to take the preparatory module and the final module in the opposite order e.g final module in the second half of the winter semester, and the preparatory module in the first half of the subsequent summer semester
3. In exceptional cases the Exam Board could grant permission to have two periods between the preparatory and the final module (as in the preparatory module in the first half of the summer semester, and the final module in the second half of the winter semester of the next academic year)
4. All current electives meet the conditions on the contents of the Real world perspective thread (to some extent). But
 - a. Cyber Crime Science stretches over two modules, it will not fit in this scheme
 - b. Communication Technology for Global Work has to be taught in the second half of the summer semester, since the cooperation with Stanford leaves no other options. So it doesn't fit in this scheme.
 - c. It may be possible to offer a revised version of Entertainment Education which does fit in this scheme
 - d. It may be possible to offer a revised version of Remote Care Nearby which fits in this scheme
5. It is not to be expected that contents for the Real world perspective thread are taught twice a year. So this thread will be different in the summer and the winter semester.