



## Winning Yeovil students bag “life changing” grants to develop their ed-tech ideas

A team of students from Yeovil College has been announced as winners of a national competition to come up with ideas for new digital tools and apps for learning.

The Shout Out team (all IT students at Yeovil College; Liam Chapman, Callum Mosdell, Jake Chaffin, Brad Lewis, Luke Murphy and Michael Smith) will receive funding and support as part of the Part of Jisc’s [Summer of Student Innovation](#). The Student Ideas competition called for technology ideas that could improve the student experience in further or higher education and skills, and attracted dozens of entrants whose pitches accumulated 7613 votes in total on the [Elevator website](#).

Their idea was Shout Out, to create an application that works as a self-sustained counselling ring of students and professionals to provide a service for people who are living with any form of disability, health issue or personal issue, to allow them to share their experiences with others either publicly or anonymously. This app will be used so people can better understand what they may be going through or have to deal with by talking to others with similar issues. This service is aimed at those who wish to help their friends through issues, help themselves or help people they have never met through their experiences. The ring of people will mean that everyone can share experiences as well as coping mechanisms.

As one of 15 winning ideas, the team has now been given £2,000 funding and will receive support from Jisc experts to work on their concepts during a series of workshops over the summer.

Jisc will also continue to support the most promising ideas and take them forward for development into products. Previous winners include a platform for research participants, a student feedback tool, and apps to help apprentices and tools to support accessibility and inclusion. One winning team from 2015 who are currently benefiting from Jisc’s support are team ‘[SALT](#)’ (The Student’s Academic Literacy Tool), for students in FE and HE institutions to improve their academic writing style. Their website to support academic writing has been developed into an app and will be ready to be piloted by universities soon. The team was also runners up in a [The Guardian University Awards 2016](#).

Paul Bailey, senior co-design manager, Jisc said: “The [Summer of Student Innovation](#) competition is now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year, but the fantastic ideas just keep on coming, proving that students are a great source of invaluable on-the-ground knowledge and innovation when it comes to ed-tech. As usual, we received many exciting and innovative ideas and choosing the winners was a difficult task. We chose these entrants because their ideas were innovative and exciting, whilst addressing new opportunities in educational technology. They also offer potential ideas we can develop into products, and have real potential to offer a genuine impact in learning, teaching or research.

“The Shout Out team should feel very proud to have been named as winners. I look forward to seeing how their concepts develop over the coming months.”

Rob Wood, Curriculum Area Manager for IT, said, “This is really great news for our students who’ve worked really hard on this project. It’s a great idea that will make a real difference to people’s lives. To get to this stage is a terrific achievement, and to be recognised as the only College team amongst university finalists is even more proof of the quality of this entry.”

Keep an eye out for this year’s winners’ ideas in the future, and watch their pitches [here](#).



**Photograph shows**

Rob Wood, Curriculum Area Manager for IT, with students (L-R: Brad Lewis, Luke Murphy, Jake Chaffin, Callum Mosdell, Liam Chapman, Michael Smith), Diljot Ahluwalia, Infrastructure Manager at Yeovil College