



## CHOOSE Financials, Students & Personnel

### HISTORY

Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies is a local, national and international provider of specialist teaching and learning, offering courses at both higher and further education levels. Tracing its history back over 100 years, the College is focussed on the hospitality, tourism, leisure and services to people sectors, being the UK's only specialist provider of such training.



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Amin Pradhan,  
Director of Information  
Services

With students from over 67 countries around the world, Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies is a friendly and welcoming College, in a city buzzing with nightlife, sport and culture.

Founded in the late nineteenth century, Birmingham College of Food provides courses for hospitality, tourism and related services. With strong links to industry, the courses range from National Vocational Qualifications to Masters Degrees. In February 1999, the college received the Queen's Anniversary prize for outstanding achievement in higher and further education.

The College has a comprehensive range of specialist training facilities including four restaurants, a bakery, two leisure centres, visitor information centre, seven hairdressing and beauty therapy salons and an international standard competition kitchen.

### REQUIREMENTS

Amin Pradhan, Director of Information Services, explained that growing academic success meant an accelerating reliance on Information Technology.

Consequently, Birmingham College of Food recognised the need to review its Management Information System to enable it to manage corporate changes more effectively. A fully integrated system was recognised as a key requirement, in addition to choosing a supportive supplier.

Agresso had previously provided the college with its Student Record System (Student 2000) and Financial System (Ledger 2000) for nearly 10 years, however the emergence of new technologies and restructure of the college determined a need for a new system in line with new technologies.

### CHOICE

From previous experience of dealing with Agresso Birmingham College of Food decided that the Agresso suite of products best met its requirements.

The Agresso product range was designed with integration at its core. All three products (Finance, Student Administration and Personnel), can be implemented as stand alone or as a fully integrated suite of products, ensuring seamless integration across all disciplines within the Institution.

Amin Pradhan, further clarified the choice further by stating "Agresso understands FE and HE educational requirements. It has a long established partnership with the College of Food and for more than 10 years both organisations have been responsive in continually delivering and implementing solutions for effective operations of the Colleges business.

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*solutions quickly helps the College provide a flexible Management Information system that can respond to any external and internal need."*

As a result of the commitment and professionalism of both Birmingham College of Food and Agresso the implementation of Agresso was completed within eight months without any problems or delays.

Amin Pradhan explained that staff at the college had shown particular enthusiasm towards Agresso QL-e, Agresso's intranet application which utilises the latest browser technology.

Understandably, staff were initially apprehensive towards learning to use a new system. However, the introduction of Agresso QL-e restored user confidence and the demand for this application amongst academic and non-academic staff has multiplied since the initial implementation.

Agresso QL-e technology sits on top of the Agresso Management System and provides an intuitive 'industry standard' desktop interface which flattens the learning curve and simplifies training requirements.

In addition to its user friendly interface Agresso QL-e also allows key information to be disseminated to a wide variety of management, teaching and support staff throughout the Institution via the web.

Agresso QL-e is the ideal tool with which to devolve information access to the wider institution audience with extensive security features ensuring that views can be tailored to specific user requirements.

The user friendly interface via a web browser, and the ease of deployment proved advantageous for both staff and students across the Birmingham College campus. The excellent functionality built into Agresso QL resulted in users having more control over the data and staff finding it easier to manipulate data through the use of spreadsheets.

## Agresso QL-e Features:

- On-line secure information
- Simple to use point and click technology
- On Line Data Extraction to applications
- Restricted views based on workgroup and user
- User defined Web Reports
- Component views simplify data relationships in a secure environment
- A complete student related dataset delivered in a browser view including
  - Application details
  - Enrolment Details
  - Course Details
  - Assessment Details
  - Examination Details

Agresso is one of the leading software houses providing systems for student, finance, HR and CRM management in the education sector.

We offer implementation, consultancy, training, project management and support – all subject to TickIT/ISO 9001 accreditation.

User Groups are held to provide a useful forum for discussions on future product developments and enhancements – lending itself to customer-driven product development.

### Generic Search

Generic search facility aimed at making the selection of Information simple and intuitive.

### Drop Down Lists

Users do not need to be familiar with codes. They could simply make their choice using the 'drop down' lists.

### Intuitive Desktop

Intuitive 'industry standard' desktop interface

### User Defined Grid Views

Each user has the ability to define the precise information displayed together with presentation preferences.

### Field Manipulation

Each field can be manipulated or completely removed including features such as 'sorting'. The fields can also be renamed to become more meaningful to the user.

Agresso QL-e empowers the management and academic staff to find their own information at the 'click of a button'. The 'bottleneck' associated with the retrieval of meaningful information is removed

The MIS department is liberated to achieve the critical tasks associated with student data while users are encouraged to investigate information retrieval for themselves.