Building the Bridge
Overview
‘Building the Bridge’ (BtB) is a three-year project run by the Arts University Bournemouth (AUB) and part-funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England Catalyst Fund. It is part of an initiative to establish Bournemouth as a centre of excellence for visual effects and animation, by building multiple bridges between industry and education.

Project Aims
The BtB project aims to raise the levels of employability and standards of work-readiness of AUB graduates for the VFX and related industries, helping to maintain the UK’s lead in the creative industries against strong international competition by:

Strengthening the talent pipeline by supporting the successful transition of AUB students and graduates into employment; Providing specialist training for those already in the industry; Enabling academics and industry practitioners to share and exchange knowledge and experience.

Industry Links
The AUB is looking to extend and strengthen its current, as well as build new, partnerships with the industry to ensure students and graduates work with world-class practising professionals to support their transition from academic studies to a commercial working environment.

The project offers industry the opportunity to gain access to new and emerging young talent to support recruitment needs, as well as offering opportunities for the development of existing employees.

Project Activities
1. Guest lectures delivered by practicing professionals or smaller group talks to raise awareness of skill requirements and career opportunities within the VFX industry;
2. Mentoring opportunities for students to be supported to develop the skills relevant to the VFX industry;
3. Internships for students and graduates to work with the VFX industry;
4. Continuing Professional Development of VFX employees, to broaden the knowledge and skills;
5. Staff exchanges between the VFX industry and AUB; and
6. Establishment of a VFX innovation hub and graduate academy within the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership area to support industry innovation and employability.

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