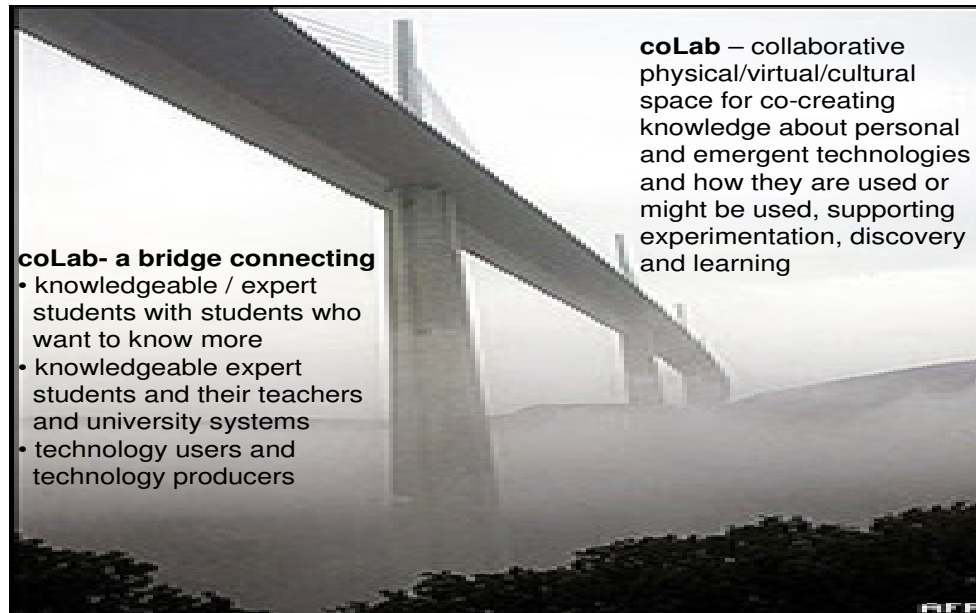## CHARACTERISTICS

- Friendly, accessible and distinctive **drop-in space** located in a well-used part of the campus.

- **Experimental space** containing a range of technology that will be available for playing with or loan.

- **Familarisation & training space** providing a programme of demonstrations and training in the use of equipment and software, also just-in-time opportunities.

- **Virtual community spaces** within which information about mobile interactive technologies and their uses can be grown, stored, connected and made accessible, together with the results of experiments and practitioners could exchange information and discuss challenges and issues.

- **Gateway to external resources** and training providers and new on-line tutorials in the form of video and podcasts developed by the collaboratory

- **Links to leading-edge research** into the use of mobile and personal technologies through collaboration with iLab and via SCEPTrE other Centres for Excellence specialising in the use of technology for learning.

- Capacity for ongoing **evaluation of teaching and learning experiments**. Facility to record experiments on video to provide both an exemplification resource for teachers and material for evaluation.

- Repository for a knowledgeable practitioner **database** (both students and staff).

- **Observatory** providing information written by students for students about emergent new developments.

Supporting collaboration in a complex world

CoLab aims to foster collaboration between students, university staff and technology producers in ways that are mutually beneficial

CORE ENTERPRISE

- A student-led and operated enterprise trading in tacit knowledge/know how contained within student body, providing a range of services to the university, students and commercial technology producers.
- Focused on partnerships for learning and discovery around current and potential use of personal /emergent technologies and the enhancement of teaching and learning and students' higher education (including placement) experiences

*University partners – **SCEPTrE, E Learning Unit, ILab, RES, Students' Union**, SPLASH, IT Services, AV Services, Faculties. External partners - Alumni entrepreneur, local businesses and corporate sponsors.*

coLab – collaborative physical/virtual/cultural space for co-creating knowledge about personal and emergent technologies and how they are used or might be used, supporting experimentation, discovery and learning

coLab- a bridge connecting
- knowledgeable / expert students with students who want to know more
- knowledgeable expert students and their teachers and university systems
- technology users and technology producers

SERVICES TO STUDENTS

- The chance to discover new and current personal technologies for learning. e.g. electronic pens, podcasts, ultra light notebooks, social networking and much more
- This would lead to enhanced awareness of how technology can be used, enhancement of skills, better time management, creative thinking, data collection, ability to network - this could lead to improvements in academic performance

Social deliverables to students will include:
- Personal development: increasing IT proficiency, e.g. sign up for certified Microsoft Office training; improve presentation and interview skills through visual recording,
- A place to buy and sell technologies at discount prices.
- Benefits for clubs & societies. e.g. hire computing, audio, video equipment.
- Safe place for trying out things

Provider of **paid work placement** opportunities for up to 10 students with expertise in use of personal technologies, and /or market research and networking skills.

Priceless opportunity to learn how to be entrepreneurial through being entrepreneurial in a relatively low risk environment.