**Investigate the integration of vendor certifications within Computing modules**

Within many Open University computing modules and micro credentials, vendor certification content is partially integrated, or the modules are created

solely based on the vendor qualifications. This project aims to investigate the impact of this integration and evaluate if it motivates and encourages students to study these modules, their perceived value and explore the potential effect of vendor elements on promotion and employability prospects.

Student survey and interviews were conducted on OU students presently studying on specific computing modules and past students. The project compared

competing universities who are utilising vendor resources. We had 72 responses to the student survey, from 56% current and 44% alumni students, there were 12 interviews done. Student responses to survey questions are shown in graphs on the slide and I will cover a selection.

61% of students said they would like to have vendor certifications in other modules. 68% said Cisco certification was a reason for choosing to study their selected modules on general feelings regarding the employability, promotion prospects and career value of vendor certifications; 39% students felt these were exceptionally invaluable and 43% said may be beneficial. 43% of students said completing a vendor certification increased their confidence, 29% said it helped getting in a job, 17% said it helped with salary increase, 22% said it helped with promotion prospects and 28% said it helped gain peer respect. 68% students viewed Cisco badges as important or extremely important. You can see some quotes from student interviews at the bottom of slide.

We thank you for taking the time to listen to our presentation.