

Title: Employability Ready Portfolios

Abstract: This workshop is based on the recently developed Applied Health and Social Care employability ready portfolios which have been mapped within a taxonomy to Edge Hill University's (2015) four employability themes; knowing yourself; knowing how to present; knowing employability skills and knowing employability.

The main aims of the session are to:

- Define the importance of making employability an explicit part of the University experience.
- Explore issues relating to non-professional degree programmes and employability
- Discuss the importance of promoting student autonomy within the employability process.
- Identify how students can develop transferable and employability skills within a cross-curricular framework to enhance their personal and professional development.

Context:

Nationally, in terms of quality review one of the main themes for the higher education review 2015 -2016 was employability and how universities improve the employability and entrepreneurial skills of their students and graduates. The ability to be enterprising is reflected within the employment ready portfolio design, to provide students with the mindset and skills to partake in intuitive decision making innovation and strategic thinking to promote their own personal sustainability and resilience from both an entrepreneur and intra-preneur perspective (The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, 2012). The research element embedded within the PDP is presented as four key themes that encourage students to engage in early research practice within the Applied Health and Social Care field to encourage the development of research communities and knowledge exchange (Healey, 2005). This further supports the proposals in the Teaching Excellence Framework Green Paper (House of Commons Business, Innovation and Skills Committee, 2016) to ensure interdependencies between research and teaching within the higher education environment providing a holistic approach to graduate employability.

Workshop PDP Steps to Success:

The workshop will highlight the use of a four stage Personal and Professional Development model to support the implementation of employment ready portfolios, within the Applied Health and Social Care degree programmes. The portfolio has been developed as an employability tool within the Applied Health and Social Care formal and hidden curriculum. Within this model four key themes for employability are addressed in a systematic approach that provides a taxonomy for students to progress through in their employment ready journey through all 3 undergraduate levels (HE levels 4 to 6). These four themes include Knowing yourself, Knowing how to present, Knowing Employability skills and Knowing Employability (Edge Hill University 2015). The purpose of the key themes is to support academic staff in making employability an explicit part of the university experience.

The PDP 'Steps to Success' model allows students to progress, reflect and revisit each of the key employability themes throughout their programme of study, thus promoting opportunities and an environment where 'deep learning' can take place. A supporting table demonstrates cross-curricular links, elucidating how the portfolio can be linked to certain modules within the curriculum implementing innovative ways of teaching and enhancing employability skills across the Applied Health and Social Care cohort.

References:

Edge Hill University (2015) Employability Strategy 2013-2018

Healey, M. (2005) Linking research and teaching exploring disciplinary spaces and the role of inquiry-based learning. In: Barnett, R. (ed.) Reshaping the university: new relationships between research, scholarship and teaching. Maidenhead: McGraw-Hill/Open University Press, 30–42.

House of Commons Business, Innovation and Skills Committee (2016) The Teaching Excellence Framework: Assessing quality in Higher Education. London: The Stationery Office Limited

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (2012) Enterprise and entrepreneurship education: Guidance for UK higher education providers. QAA

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