"Exploration of Reflection Results in 'Valuing Learning' Site."

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Exploration of Reflection Results in ‘Valuing learning’ Site

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Introduction

Higher Education must promote the idea of learners actively documenting knowledge, skills and competencies gathered over time. Should include all forms of learning formal, non-formal and informal or experiential learning.
Context: - Demand for Recognition of Prior Learning

- Research based MA
- RPL - requires ability to reflect on previous learning from past experiences to document a case for assessment for credits on the National Framework
- Reflective mode – identify key learning events that contributed significantly to a persons learning
What RPL is

Recognition is given for what you already know prior to starting on a programme or module. Can be recognised formally against programmes on the National Framework.

The ability to conduct
Reflective mode can be difficult to get into – and is at the core of case preparation

- Task to document this learning and present proof of it
- Build suitable case for assessment
- Can be difficult for candidate – they need help to develop reflective ability
In practice this means documenting prior learning and presenting what is relevant for assessment.

On assessment learning is compared with a reference point on the framework.
Promote good experience with RPL case preparation

Focus groups to explore reflection – Sept 2011

– Getting into reflective mode
– Difficulties with reflection
– Benefits of reflection
– What helped getting into reflective mode
**Emerging themes:**

- Reflection is difficult
- Learning environment is important – allow for sharing of experiences/learning from each other
- Tools to assist reflection – learning journal; portfolio
- Providing examples/guidelines
- Provide feedback directly – show where and how you might improve approach to reflection
- Reflection is valuable process
- “Document as you go” through life – get into habit of capturing and recording achievements and competencies
‘Document as you go’

Valuing Learning page

• Institute prompts learner to actively document achievements and competencies over time

• Lifelong learning mindset encouraged

• Supports RPL
Valuing Learning

- Return to education at various times throughout life for various reasons.
- Personal competencies can take on a new significance when they compliment a particular field of learning.
‘Document as you go’

- Personal - Learner maintains collection
- Can be digital – e-portfolio (or not)
- Learner driven
- Should articulate experience, achievements and provide evidence of learning
- Lifetime commitment – outside of any one Higher Educational establishment
Staff Contribute to site

- Staff voice is valued
- Range of disciplines each with their own idea of what might be useful
- All valid

**WHAT MIGHT BE USEFUL?**

As well as valuing learning we value our staff and what they have to say. Check out what some of them consider useful - this varies depending on the stream of learning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>What might be useful to collect</th>
<th>Benefits/Qualifications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bernard O’Callaghan, Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>- work experience projects completed entries to competitions (formula 1 schools competition)</td>
<td>Involvement in RDS Young Scientist Exhibition Holiday or part-time work in a science-related industry or workplace Visits (either personal or school-related) to science industries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Wood, Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
<td>Certificates for course attendances and course completion Letters from organisations where the student has been worked paid/voluntary/charity work, including details of their role and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Toebes, Good Manufacturing Practice</td>
<td></td>
<td>Watch-keeping certs; Completed voyage plans; Completed draft survey forms and calculations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vivion Gough, Nautical Studies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Space for lifelong learning links

• Site useful for linking to other lifelong learning themed websites

• Promoting idea of e-portfolios

• Supports a mobile fluid workforce