

Transforming learning through Scholarship

Session Abstract

Developing the students' journey through the use of PebblePad, Grand Challenges and team building

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The Employability Team have been running trials within ARES to embed Employability within the curriculum. A number of courses; BSc Equine, BSc Horticulture, BSc Geography and BSc Geography Physical have participated and approximately 200 students have taken part in the trial. A key component of the trial is the use of an eportfolio tool to track students skills and personal development, work experience and reflections. Students were surveyed and focus groups took place in April 2016. The session shared the feedback and impact upon the students as well as also demonstrating the functionality of the PebblePad system and how students are utilising it.

Another key component for the trial was the delivery of a week-long Employer led challenge for all first year students. Approximately, 150 students have participated in the Grand Challenge and a team building day. This had led to enhanced confidence and performance from this group of students and further investigations into the full impact will be explored. The session shared the format for this challenge and the benefits to student employability and confidence levels.

The PebblePad system and basic functionality was demonstrated and an explanation given on how the Employability Team have utilised it as part of the new module and their plans moving forward.

The benefits of the team building exercise and setting real-life challenges in partnership with external organisations were discussed

Debra Easter is currently the Student Employability Services Manager, but prior to the change of role in Jan 16 she was employed as the Employability Coordinator at the School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences.

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