



HEA Seminar: Employer Engagement and Development of Skills for Employability

Location: The Open University, Open CETL offices, East Perry Building, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes

Date: Wednesday 17th March 2010

Seminar leaders:

OU Business School:	Jan Brunwin and Sue Parr
Faculty of Health and Social Care:	Ingrid Nix
Institute of Educational Technology:	Mary Thorpe
The Faculty for Education and Language Studies:	Steve Hutchinson

The seminar process:

9.30	Arrival and coffee
10.30	Introductions and overview
10.40	<p>The Business School and private sector context: Seminar themes developed in the context of two projects in the private sector: Presentations covering two projects, demonstrating how employers were engaged with and how designs were developed for learning programmes that are relevant, flexible and meet expectations:</p> <p>Project a) BMJ British Medical Journal – the development of an innovative continuing professional development programme, in Clinical Leadership, comprising flexible, online modules with formative, work-based assessment with two assessment modules leading to a post-graduate certificate.</p> <p>Project b) Airbus Airbus Academy – the OU contribution to an industry-based programme to prepare and support the most talented of new graduate managers on a General Management Career path- a partnership that has survived and evolved through a number of iterations and is now in the third year of operation.</p>
11.30	10 minutes for question and answer
11.40	<p>The Social Work context The Social Work degree at the OU incorporates activities specific to the development of ICT and information literacy skills for social workers. There will be an overview of the skills approach on the degree (combining skills for learning with skills contextualised within social work practice) with examples. Evidence of student response will be used to discuss how pre-qualifying social work students responded to these activities and to online study more broadly. This will be followed by discussion of quantitative and qualitative data from twelve newly-qualified social work graduates, reflecting on their experiences of ICT and IL skills development, covering a) perceptions of what was most effective and issues encountered b) a selection of skills activities from three practice-based learning courses and learner views on how well these prepared them for technology-enhanced social work practice. Lessons learned and implications for practice</p>

12.30	Questions and answer
12.40	Group activity for post lunch session set up: Two groups set up, one focusing on the Business/private sector context (Group A) the other on the social work context (Group B) Groups document issues/suggestions to report back for plenary discussion
12.45	Lunch
1.30	Activity for Group A: Discussion handout inviting participants to identify barriers to meeting employee/employer agendas and ways in which these can be overcome. Activity for Group B: Drawing on your own experience/institution, what are the challenges for skills development ? What approaches have been effective for you? How can challenges be overcome?
2.45	Plenary discussion from groups together with presenters: issues and ideas brought forward from groups
3.15	Close of seminar and tea/coffee