
Skills Portfolio: Vehicle for excellence but with fine tuning - SST

Area of Focus

The portfolio used by a number of teams at SST showcases the skills of students in an assessment targeted at persuades the reader to give the student a specific job.

The students are introduced to the concept of collating skills in level 4 , in summative and formative assessments supported by tutorial sessions that also involve peer marking and students supplying supportive feedback.

This work develops through years 5 and 6, is also running at a master's level and is informed by research at a doctoral level, and advanced into an online format by use of Graduate Internship.

The portfolio was first produced 6 years ago to mirror that used by the IBMS to record excellence in practical skills as part of ongoing CPD.

The synoptic assessment is to produce 10+ pieces of evidence to persuade the reader that the author is the best candidate for a defined job.

Its wider aim is for students to develop an awareness of their worth in the workplace beyond a degree classification, more as a collection of highly desirable skills.

Doctoral level research is examining the role it plays in alumni's careers post University.

Practically how is this achieved?

The tutorial system is used to support this with summative and formative assessments allowing the development of skills required to highlight the students' strengths to a prospective employer.

Discipline-specific and transferable skills are highlighted in learning sessions where evidence can be obtained showing prospective employers the students' worth.

Alumni report the high value of the portfolio, crediting it as having an important part in them gaining career success. They do wish it was online to allow it to be viewed from a covering letter or online application form.

An SST graduate intern, with support from ARES, has reviewed a number of online vehicles producing training material for both staff and students in preparation for a Pilot at SST 17/18.

"it is a useful tool for preparation for interviews"

"It has assisted with being able to identify skills that can be transferred from other areas of work/study."

".....it makes the interviewee seem interested and more suitable for the job role as the pieces selected were tailored to the job requirements. It also gives the impression the interviewee is well organised and serious about the job role."

Student Comment