

How can we use e-portfolios to enhance the learning of students attending more than one site?

Independent evidence

Colleges are making increasing use of e-portfolios for managing evidence of learning. E-portfolios are a personal online space, where learners can store their work, record their achievements, link to other learners and access personal course timetables and digital resources. When surveyed, students said they saw them as “a tool to market yourself” and “an online CV that gets updated every time you do something”, whilst their teachers viewed them as “a method of recording and reflecting on skills” and “a career development tool” i.

Your evidence and reflections

If you are currently running programmes for students who are attending more than one institution, e-portfolios have the potential to provide a unified approach to storing information on a student’s progress. Issues may arise, however, around institutions using different systems, and varying levels of use among staff within and across institutions. You could map out current practice by asking each member of staff to complete a questionnaire like the one below at a team meeting.

| activity | using virtual learning environment | using my own PC | using paper-based system |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| inputting/accessing student details | | | |
| recording assessment details | | | |
| etc | | | |

Putting the evidence to work

Use the outcomes of the questionnaires for a discussion on the uses of different systems for different purposes. Is there any duplication across the systems that can be removed by taking more advantage of the VLE? Are there particular practices for which the team can agree that they will all use the VLE? Once you have done this exercise for your institution, it might be valuable comparing notes with a partner organisation. Include technical experts so that questions of compatibility of systems can also be addressed.

i Find out more about using e-portfolios at:

http://partners.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=pv&catcode=pv_ep_02

You can find more on ICT and personalization in this article on Inside Evidence:

<http://excellence.gia.org.uk/pdf/How-can-ict-help-personalization.pdf>