3D   Evidencing Employability: the challenges of using e-portfolios for assessment and for promoting professional practice

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What is the role of assessment and how can it be used to actively promote employability within and beyond university? In this session we challenge the traditional roles regarding course evaluation and conventions around the purpose and use of assessment.

This interactive workshop will begin with an overview of our experiences on the Evidencing Employability project and the challenges of creating e-portfolios for assessment and use after graduation to emphasise employability. Evidencing Employability is a University of Glasgow Learning and Teaching 2013-14 development funded project creating new e-portfolio resources for current undergraduate and taught postgraduate students and staff to use for work placement portfolios and work-based learning assessments.

Using student-generated content, delegates will be able to explore online the use of Mahara e-portfolios in specific subject areas and discuss issues around the development of assessment interfaces for work placement portfolios.

Evidencing Employability also developed marking interfaces and Mahara resources for students to use e-portfolios after graduation as a tool for future employability and as an opportunity to showcase their graduate attributes and professional skills. Templates, self-study learning guides and peer-forums have been developed for a range of subject areas (archaeology, classics, dentistry, earth science and education) and can be copied and adapted for use in any subject.

The project also engaged with external work placement providers and industry representatives to develop modes of feedback for work-based learning that students can use to support their professional practice. Showcasing the destinations and work placements whilst at University and the role of e-portfolios also encourages awareness of graduate attributes and is a powerful self-learning tool.

There will be time for general discussion on how to promote student engagement with Mahara and strategies to support ongoing developments with alumni.