



E-Portfolio at Warwickshire College

Building on VLE Success

The Business and Computing area has been using the Blackboard Learning Channel as their Virtual Learning Environment for over two years. Learners not only access on line resources but also download and upload their course work. All coursework assessment is conducted on line through the VLE and returned to the learners with feedback and results are recorded in the grade book which is built within the VLE.

In the previous academic year, a traditional paper and partly electronic portfolio was used to capture evidence for learners ITQ. This year we conducted a trial with two groups of business students, and have created an e-portfolio within our VLE. This has proved very successful with both learners and assessors.



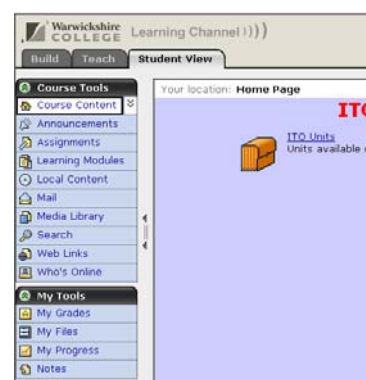
"I hope we use e-portfolios for all my candidates next academic year."

<Hadighe Shariat: ITQ Assessor

E-PORTFOLIO DESIGN

Warwickshire College had already invested significantly in the Blackboard Learning System both with finance and training. Also, another important factor was that the students were already familiar and comfortable with the VLE.

The Blackboard Learning System is a VLE that not only allows instructors to build course materials online, but also allows the recording of assessments through the grade book.



The most time consuming stage of setting up the e-portfolio was the assessment capture points. However once completed for one module, it is easy to replicate this for future courses and candidates. Evidence tasks are created to guide learners to offer advice as to the type of evidence and skills needed, questions are asked through an assessment task, and observation tasks are completed when the candidate feels they are ready to be observed. Another critical stage was the involvement of the External Verifier, to ensure their support from an early stage.

This approach allows learners to direct their own learning; the more independent learners will drive their own ITQ. However, the role of the Assessor is still critical throughout the process with all learners to develop a personal relationship to ensure success.



"We have found that more time can be spent with learners, who lack the confidence or IT skills, and those more able can work at their own pace." <Jackie Cook: Business Lecturer

BENEFITS

Hadighe Shariat has been trialing the e-portfolio, she has 6 groups of fulltime students, two of these groups are using e-portfolio. Hadighe assessment time using e-portfolio has been reduced by over 30%, with more effective visits and communications with students and no manual cross reference evidence. All evidence is captured and graded straight into a grade book. Another benefit is the ability to assess anywhere that has an internet connection without having to carry great numbers of portfolios.

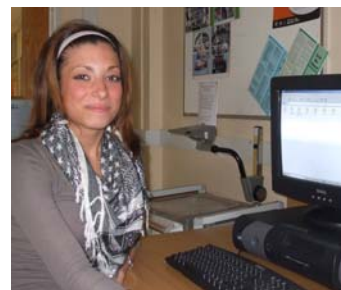


"We can communicate directly with the candidates via the learning channel. This method is very flexible, as long as there is an Internet connection. The candidates and assessors can work any time /anywhere. " <Hadighe Shariat: ITQ Assessor

The students also enjoy completing their ITQ, they see that there is a 'seamless' approach to their course work and their ITQ.



"It's really easy, its work that you are already doing, and you are getting an additional qualification. Also I got lots of help from my assessor Hadighe." < Denise Ficarra: Business Student



On a final note from Hadighe:



"After all we are claiming to promote the use of ITC by offering ITQ qualification but not practising it ourselves by carrying big portfolios everywhere!" <Hadighe Shariat: ITQ Assessor

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