

Digital Literacy for Employability: the Edge Award

This exemplar is relevant to Digital Student challenge:

Prepare and support students to study successfully with digital technologies

The Ulster EDGE (Engagement Development Graduate Employability) Award is designed to enhance the employability of Ulster graduates by recognising and evidencing activities outside of their programme of study. To achieve the award students complete four activities of approximately 30 hours duration. In 2013 a new activity was developed to help students evaluate their digital literacies and reflect on their digital identity.

Students who register for the digital activity first take part in a 'Visitor and Resident' mapping workshop (White and LeCornu, 2011) to help them reflect on their uses of technology for living, learning and professional development. They complete a quiz developed by the Exeter Cascade project, 'What type of Digital Learner am I?', to assess their preferred modes of digital engagement. They are then given support to develop those digital literacies they have identified as important to their personal and professional development. For example, one group learned to use video and produced short 'elevator pitches' to camera in preparation for their placement interviews.

The final assessment, which can be through a blog or ePortfolio, encourages students to reflect on the learning they have undertaken. This might involve:

- an evaluation of their use of online tools and content;
- an account of developing competency in using technology for specific tasks;
- an evaluation of their own digital identity and online professional profile;
- action plans for further development;
- digital artefacts they have produced in response to course tasks e.g. podcasts, video interviews, slideshare presentations.

How does this meet the challenge?

- Learning is closely matched to students' aspirations and current self-assessed needs.
- Digital capability is addressed alongside other employability factors.
- Flexible assessment allows students to focus on their strengths and demonstrate digital capability in a variety of ways.
- Addressing digital capability outside of the curriculum allows students to focus on areas of personal interest and expertise.

Find out more

- [Project web site: 'Get the Edge'](#)
- [Activities available for 'Get the Edge'](#) - scroll down for information on digital literacies
- ['Visitors and Residents'](#) (resources)
- [What type of digital learner are you?](#) - Cascade Quiz

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