



Communicating through animation in social care

This exemplar is relevant to Digital Student challenge:

Deliver a relevant digital curriculum

Animations are often used to communicate complex systems in engineering and the natural sciences. At Manchester Metropolitan University, they are also being applied in social care and social practice. Academics began using animations to help students explore the situations they encountered on their social care placements. After a while, they began to see that animations could be used to record professional development more generally, and to communicate research findings too: participant voices could be brought to the fore without exposing the real people involved.

Level 5 students now produce an animation as a routine part of their final assessment. This was introduced only after planning and reflection: *'When asking students to produce a different type of assessment we need to think about how we're going to support them in doing this.'* Go-animate is used to make the technical process relatively straightforward, so that students can focus on the content. Students start out creating a short group animation in a seminar session where the environment is supportive and low stakes. This is a chance to master techniques and get feedback from peers and tutors before going on to create their own materials. Students who have been through this process are now confident enough to create animated learning resources for level four students in modules that they took themselves in the previous year. And the project has been expanded – through [MMU Futures](#) – to provide animation workshops to staff and students in other subject areas.

How does this meet the challenge?

- Staff and students are learning new techniques together.
- There is genuine enquiry into the potential of a new medium to express ideas in a complex personal and professional space.
- Teaching staff have experimented, reflected, and carefully prepared students to encounter the technology in a way that builds their confidence.

Find out more

- [Course blog](#)

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