Jisc **Digital Student exemplars**
Enhancing the digital experience of students

Skills for professional practice in Biosciences

This exemplar is relevant to Digital Student challenge:

> *Deliver a relevant digital curriculum*

A module entitled '*Skills for Professional Practice in Bioscience 2*' is taken by all M-level students in Biosciences at Glasgow Caledonian University. The module is taught by a team that includes subject specialists, academic developers (one specialising in ICT skills and digital literacies) and a careers adviser. Alongside experimental design and analysis the module addresses ICT skills important to bioscientists, specifically: critical assessment and analysis (including of online information and data); and communicating and developing a professional identity online.

Many of the participants are international students who also face challenges with professional and academic English. As a significant element of their assessed work, students create a personal website and write a reflective blog. The tutors feel it is important that they choose the platform and design the web site and blog for themselves, so they are in control of the material and can continue to build their professional identity when they graduate. None of the students who have taken the module so far had any previous experience of web site creation.

How does this meet the challenge?
- Students learn digital and professional skills, as well as being better prepared for the demands of study.
- A multi-role professional team ensures different forms of expertise and support are made available to students around authentic tasks.
- The course structure links information and digital tasks with professional identity.
- Many students continue to maintain their web sites into professional practice.

Find out more
- Course materials and further information available from the tutors, as below.

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