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# An Investigation into the Use of E-Portfolio Tools to Enhance the Final Year Engineering Project Experience

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# Background

- Project funded under the Royal Academy of Engineering's National HE STEM Programme
- 12-month duration
  - January – December 2011
- Investigators
  - Ray Sheriff and Felicia Ong

# Background and Rationale

- **The Final Year Engineering Project (FYEP) requires students to apply a range of personal, practical and technical skills**
- **At Bradford, the FYEP spans two semesters and is assessed by a poster and a report**
- **Progress tends to be gauged through regular face-to-face meetings between supervisor and student**
- **As study patterns and employers' needs change, new ways of learning and teaching may be necessary**
- **E-portfolio tools have the potential to enhance the FYEP experience from the perspectives of supervisor and student, respectively**

# Aims and Objectives

## ■ Aim

- To determine whether e-portfolio tools can be used to enhance the FYEP experience

## ■ Obj-1

- To identify existing practice among supervisors and students

## ■ Obj-2

- To raise level of awareness of capabilities of e-portfolio tools

## ■ Obj-3

- To evaluate the performance of e-portfolio tools when used for FYEPs

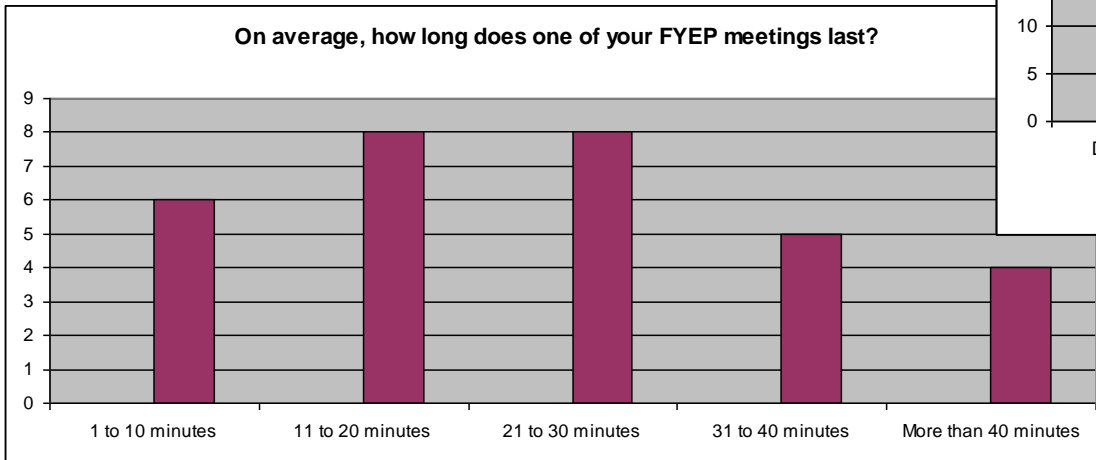
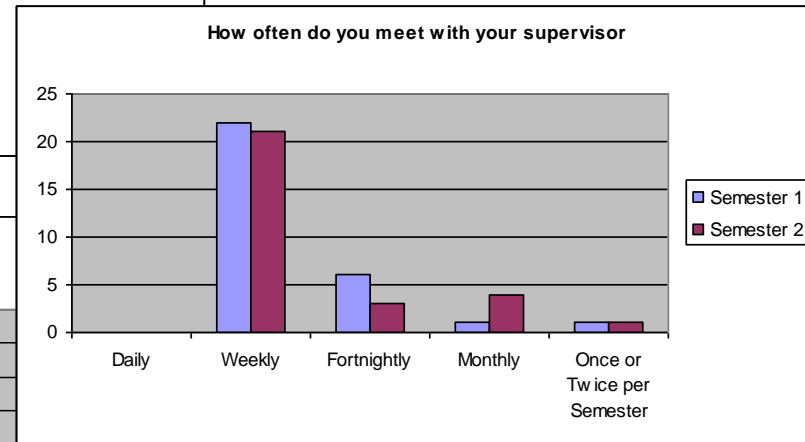
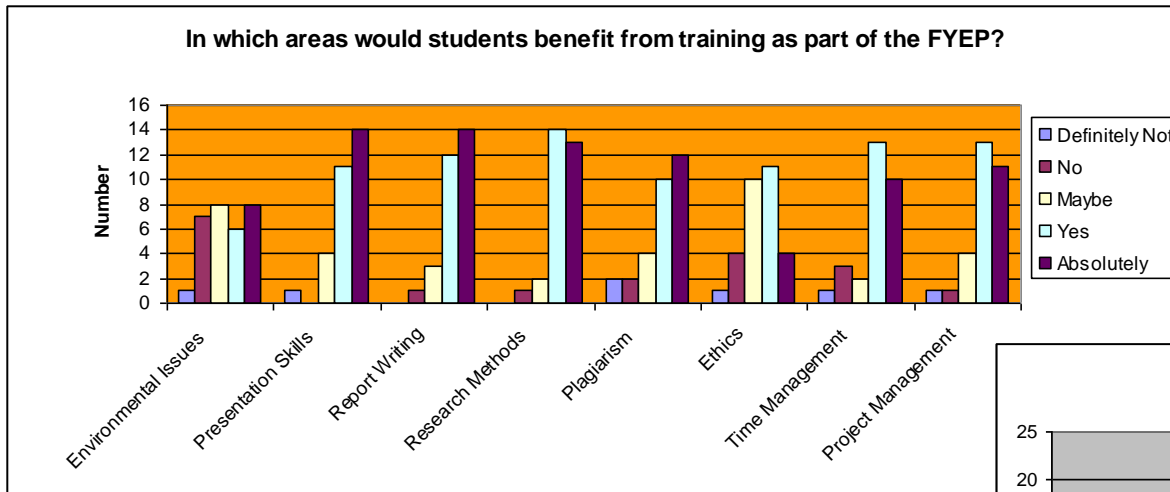
# Methodology

- **Apply a mixture of qualitative and quantitative techniques**
- **Consult both supervisors and students**
- **Perform initial data gathering through on-line questionnaires and semi-structured face-to-face interviews**
- **Conclude with a pilot phase involving PebblePad, the University's e-portfolio tool**

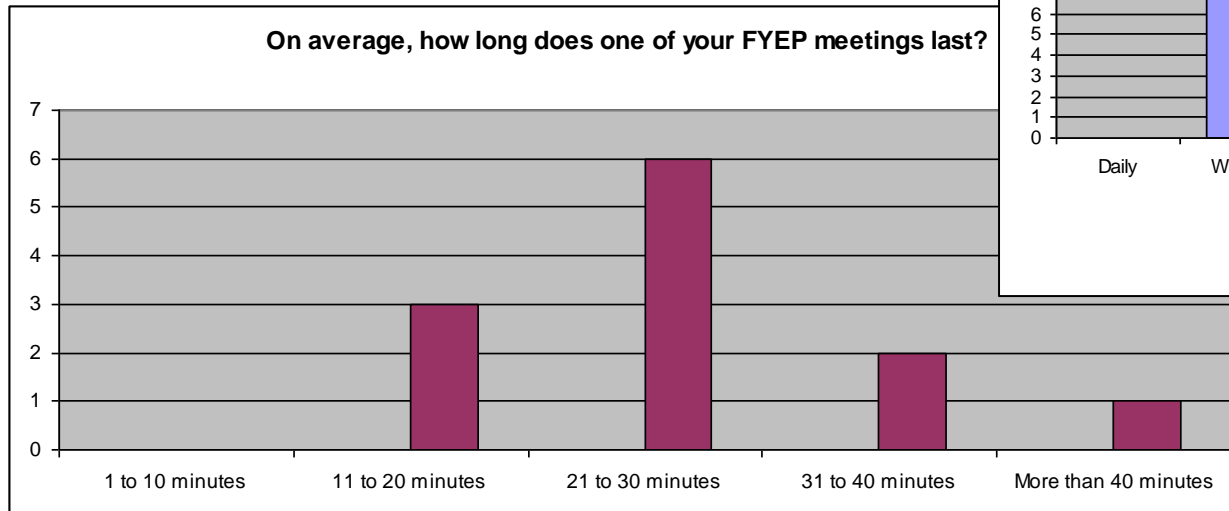
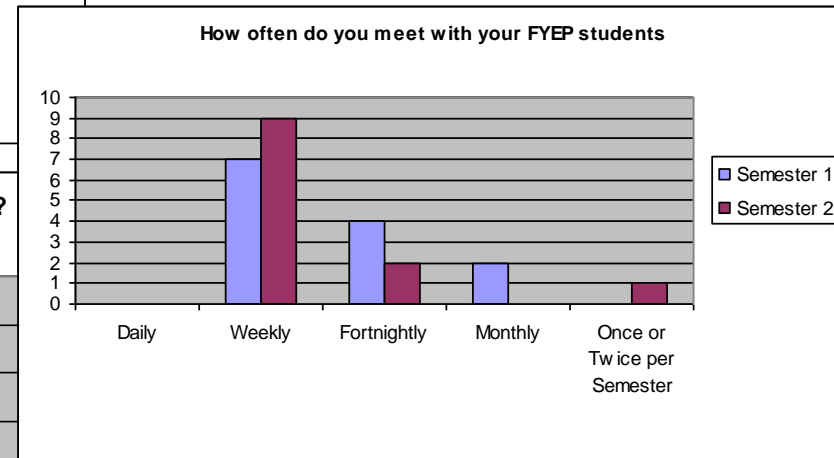
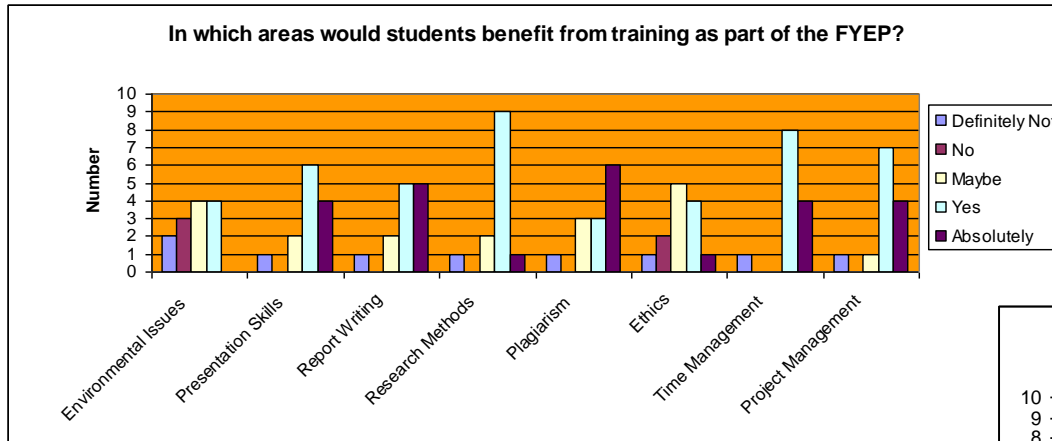
# Progress – Data Collection

- **On-line questionnaires were made available to FYEP students and supervisors from 20 May to 31 May 2011**
- **The questionnaires comprised five sections: Background, Meetings, Skills, Assessment and Technology**
  - **13 FYEP supervisors and 31 students completed the on-line questionnaires**
- **Responses from students were received from all five of the School's Programme Teams**

# Sample Results – Student Experience



# Sample Results – Supervisor Experience



# Future Plans

- **Analyse results of on-line surveys and semi-structured face-to-face interviews with FYEP supervisors**
- **Provide PebblePad training for supervisors and students at start of 2011/12 academic Year**
- **Design suitable e-portfolio experiment for 2011/12 FYEPs**
- **Write-up results in the form of a Case Study**