



Outduction: Enhancing the Final Year Experience

Case Study

Title	Lab For Life: An Assessment Led Approach to Embedding Employability Skills.
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Organisation	University of Bradford
Keywords	Employability
Intended learning outcome	To embed employability skills in the curriculum, empower students to be independent researchers, put emphasis on the process, rather than outcome / product of lab work. We wanted to use assessment as a tool to achieve module outcomes; not just to measure them.
Problem statement (what did the case study seek to address?)	A traditional lab course creates pressure to get the 'correct' result, does not equip the student to be an independent researcher and provides little opportunity to embed employability skills. Assessment puts emphasis on product rather than process.
Context	A 30 credit module delivered in semester one of the third year, based on themed workshops including advanced laboratory skills, the independent researcher and interview skills.
Activity	A workshop was delivered on how to succeed at interview, incorporating a practical 'mock interview' exercise with peer feedback, prior to their assessed interview. Student's experimental results were presented in a recruitment interview setting via a technical question and two typical competency based questions. Students were given a self reflection sheet to complete on leaving their interview.
Issues	Interview assessment was time consuming. In future we are considering the use of Flip cameras for both student self evaluation and internal moderation.
Hot tips/key points for effective practice	Assessing by interview gave students valuable experience prior to placement and graduate interviews and useful feedback, including an opportunity for self reflection for future skills development. Positive feedback has been received from an Industrial Placement provider. The module served as useful stepping stone to the individual research project.

	Future developments will see further aspects of the typical 'assessment centre' used for assessing this module with the potential for graduate employer involvement.
Web link	