

OLM Element Workshop: Interaction with the Professions (IWP)



Connecting to Professional Context

Connecting students with professionals and sites of professional practice, providing a valuable context for engagement with subject content

Session Overview

- Background & Theory Base
- IWP and the OLM - lessons learnt: Evaluation of the OLM indicated that staff
- Some practical examples



IWP Theory Base

Interaction with the Professions connects students with **professionals** and sites of **professional practice**. This engagement also supports the development of professional capabilities, induction into the culture and values of the profession, and an ethos of lifelong learning and career planning.

Dalgarno, Kennedy & Merritt (2014), found that inquiry based learning designs, and simulations, are also beneficial strategies for overcoming the disconnect between the theory of academic disciplines, and practice.

For students studying online, Conrad (2008) identified that a credible connection to the workplace is critical. Rich media tools can provide various ways for online students to connect to the workplace and professional contexts.

This element supports enhanced *learner-community engagement*.



OLM Evaluation Findings: IWP

What we know:

- There was a significant gap between student's perceptions of the importance of Interaction with the Professions (88%) and their experience of this element (50%)
- Students preference for the Interaction with the Professions element are not being met
- Staff also reported a lack of confidence in implementing this element; more time and attention needs to be allocated to developing strategies to overcoming these challenges.

Proposed tactics from OLM to improve IWP:

- Focus on facilitating students placement (before, during, post)
- Connection to resource creation and authentic tasks
- Informing staff understanding of IWP element → choice re. Subject design



CSU Exemplars: who's doing what?

- **Authentic text types**
- **Supporting Resources - Satellite sites**
- **Integrated practitioners**
- **Mentors / Guest Speakers**
- **Tools of the trade**



Exemplars: Authentic text types

HRM320 Issues in Human Resource Management

- Assessment task requires students to create an authentic artefact, demonstrating professional knowledge and skills.
- Students select a current HR issue or challenge **within an organisation of their choice** and to provide recommendations in a formal report.



Exemplars: Authentic Text Types

CLJS Subjects → tasks

LAW214

Assessment 2 → prepare a Legal Letter of Advice

LAW114

Assessment 2 → prepare a Legal Memoranda

LAW116

Assessment 3 → Simulated Guilty Plea (conducted at Res School), assessed by community-based legal professionals

LAW219

Assessment 1 → conduct IRAC analysis (legal case analysis methodology)



Exemplars: Satellite Resource Sites

(JST321) Workplace Learning [Webguide](#)

Highly intuitive, mobile friendly resource created to scaffold work placement experience, designed according to WP timeline, includes all related documentation, contact points etc. → maintained by the School.

(MGT569) Leadership Challenge [Thinkspace Site](#)

Interactive, media-rich resource used to provide a stream of related industry-based content & conversations to students → maintained by the Academic.

CLJS [Residential School Hub](#)

1-stop-shop for all res school students, updated every session → maintained by the School, contributed to by each academic (connects internal w/ external stakeholders involved @ res school).

FoAE Teacher Performance Assessment (TPA) [Resource Site](#)

Accreditation / profession newly required process, resource site to scaffold students dealing with that process & easily connected to the relevant subject.

FoAE University Liaison Officers [Resource Site](#)

Connection between community-based professionals, student teachers, assessment & work placement - all scaffolded in one central, externally accessible resource



Exemplars: CLJS Integrated Practitioners

CLJS Barrister in residence - Bill Walsh

..the importance of students having access to the stories of individuals connected to the RW application of their content..

- Bridging the divide between the scholarship / academic content & real world application
- Content vs Industry currency - beyond the rhetoric, documentation & policy → reality check?
- Invaluable resource → participates in res schools, involved in content creation, student mentor, assessor of authentic assessment activities
- Challenges student thinking - does your understanding of the content 'fit' with the application?



Exemplars: Mentors / Guest Speakers

..the need to contextualise the learning materials to the real world..

CLJS - Claire O'Connor SC

([LinkedIn](#)) ([Trevorro vs SA](#))

- High profile barrister - human rights, family, personal injury law
- Invited to deliver community address @ CSU Bathurst, part of Res School
- Provided with some key points to address → footage & input captured and used to create further authentic learning materials and connected to subsequent session assessment offerings (i.e. directly informed by the profession)

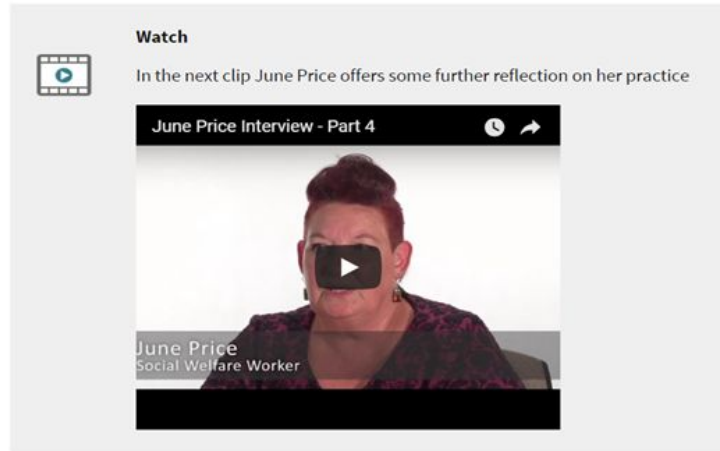


Exemplars: Mentors / Guest Speakers

HCS103 Fields of Practice

Topic: Ageing and Aged Care

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yn4BKs6rxy4&feature=youtu.be>



- Teaching academics contacted practicing professionals to create videos of experts in the field.
- Filmed on campus with help of DLT and embedded into subjects site.
- Videos accessed by both online and on-campus students.



Exemplars: Mentors / Guest Speakers

INF537 Digital Futures Colloquium

ULM503 The Higher Education environment and University Governance

- Multiple guest lecturers present during the online meetings during session.
- Clear purpose and topic, not just a Q&A session.
- “Live” guest lectures provide students with the opportunity for synchronous engagement with practicing professionals.

ULM503 201860 guest lectures	
Week	Topic
5	Higher ed trends & leadership Prof Val Peachey
6	Governance in H.E. Private & Public Judith Gullifer
9	Course design & HESF Greg Auld
10	Governance at CSU Nick Drengenberg



Looking for assistance with IWP?



Subject level consultation is available from the Online Learning Model team

contact OLM Learning Designer Alissa Brabin

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