

# Development of an ePortfolio for Pre-registration Student Nurses



## Background

Professional development portfolios can be viewed as a valuable tool enabling nurses and student nurses to demonstrate continuous learning and professional development in accordance with regulatory requirements (NMC, 2016).

Evidence of continuing professional development is a statutory requirement of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and in 2016 the NMC introduced the revalidation process that requires nurses and midwives to maintain their professional registration (NMC, 2016).



## Aims

Adopting a multi-professional, collaborative approach:

- Develop a new strategy for portfolio development for BSc and MSc adult and mental health nursing students
- Move from paper-based to electronic format based upon the NMC revalidation process



## Collaboration

The project team consisted of lecturers from across the adult and mental health BSc and MSc nursing programmes and members of the Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) team, experts and student nurses.

A practical training session for adult and mental health students and adult nursing lecturers was developed and delivered collaboratively within the project team, giving both students and lecturers the opportunity to use the portfolio on mobile devices and ask questions on its use.

The ePortfolio presents an opportunity for student nurses to develop digital capabilities (JISC, 2014): <https://tinyurl.com/digicapability>



## ePortfolio

### The ePortfolio is designed to:

- Prepare students for NMC requirements for revalidation
- Enable seamless continuation of professional and personal development in the transition from student to professionally accountable registered practitioner through preceptorship
- An alumni account enables continued development of the portfolio in preparation for revalidation

### The portfolio consists of sections based upon the NMC revalidation template including:

- Reflective accounts
- Practice-related feedback
- Reflective professional development discussions with the personal tutor

Students are able to share elements of their ePortfolio with personal tutor and mentors and it is envisaged that guidance for completion of the portfolio will be facilitated by personal tutors.



## Evaluation

### Student feedback

"I think portfolios are really valuable going forward because it does show the employer that you can do what you say you can do and also as a reminder to yourself that if you think I'm not too sure about this, you can look back and think well actually I used this technique and this technique with this patient, let's have a look and refresh it and adopt it."

"In terms of the usability of the electronic portfolio, I could use it."

"Everything is here that we need and it tells us what we need. The 5 reflective pieces were brilliant. Creating the work products was time consuming and now the new way when I wrote the work product, as I was explaining to the Mentor the work product was on the screen in front of her. I'd just done a care plan for somebody and I don't need to print it off, it's all there she's seen me do it, it's much better and it prevents confidentiality issues."



## Outcomes

Utilisation of the new portfolio will be continually evaluated and amended. It is anticipated that themes generated from this change may include:

- Development of the personal tutor role
- Improved student confidence in self-assessment
- Improved awareness and confidence in engagement with a professional development portfolio as a qualified nurse
- Smoother transition through preceptorship



## Explore

Use your phone or tablet to read this QR code to see the ePortfolio template in Pebble Pad



## References

Head K., Johnston J.H. (2012) Evaluation of the personal development portfolio in higher education: An explorative study. *Nurse Education Today*, 32: 857-861.

Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) (2014) Developing Digital Literacies. Available at <https://www.jisc.ac.uk/full-guide/developing-digital-literacies> Last accessed January 2017.

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Peacock S., Gordon L., Murray S., Morss K., Dunlop C. (2010) Tutor response to implementing an e-portfolio to support learning and personal development in further and higher education institutions in Scotland. *British Journal of Educational Technology*. 41 (5), 827-851.



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