

## **Using ePortfolios for integrated professional education (IPE)**

### **Level 1**

**Contact – Caroline Gibson and Kath MacDonald (Nursing)**

**Email: cgibson@qmu.ac.uk and kmacdonald@qmu.ac.uk**

Integrated Professional Education (IPE) involves all our undergraduate healthcare learners at Queen Margaret University. Students from radiography, nursing, podiatry, speech and language sciences, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, audiology and dietetics and nutrition learn to work together effectively in order to improve the level of support provided to their clients. This means when they enter their chosen profession they are confident and effective when part of integrated health professional teams.

Last year, first-year IPE students were introduced to the blog tool in the ePortfolio in an informal way as a reflective tool. Some of the students found it useful to record their group work experiences but not all. Building on this experience, we are now implementing ePortfolios in a more focussed way.

This year, students will experience a more structured introduction to the blog tool. Initially they will have a short briefing session about the role of reflection in their learning and its importance for their professional development. This session will also cover how to think and write reflectively. Learners will be provided with exemplars and directed to additional resources about reflection on our ePortfolio website and on the Effective Learning Service website.

Learners will then be introduced to the ePortfolio tool. Students will be shown exemplars of the type of blog entries that would be expected and the style and focus of these entries. These exemplars have been created by their tutors and will focus on the students' reflections on the group working process, to include issues such as team working and communication. They will be shown how to set up a blog and create postings. Finally they will learn how to print and copy entries to their blogs which could be used as evidence in their assessments.

Caroline and Kath are hoping that by introducing the blog tool in the ePortfolio, these first-year learners will

- Develop reflective journaling skills;
- View reflection through ePortfolio as an integral part of their programme rather than as an add on;
- Embark on their first steps of using the ePortfolio system and all its tools. For example, webfolios or CVs;
- Use the ePortfolio tool as a way of demonstrating ongoing professional learning and achievement.