

Using Discussion Forums to Help Developing Employability Skills

Monika Foster
Napier University, UK

Maximum Number of Participants

60

Intended Audience and Degree of Background Knowledge

Participants should be familiar with or considering *employability* in their teaching, research or programme design. Some knowledge of and skills in using online discussions would be useful but not necessary.

Workshop Objectives

- To consider the nature of ‘employability’ and what skills are involved.
- To share examples of developing employability skills at Napier University, UK and on a joint programme with Hong Kong, SPACE.
- To experience and discuss the use of online discussion forum as a means of developing employability skills.
- To give opportunity to share ideas on how to help our students develop employability skills, including online discussion forum.

Workshop Contents

1. Brainstorm (10 mins)

The session will begin with a brainstorm of what we think constitutes *employability*, why it is important and what skills are involved in employability

2. Considering the topic (15 mins)

It will be followed by an overview of what employability is considered to be in the current literature and how Napier University develops employability in Edinburgh and on a joint programme with Hong Kong SPACE.

3. Using online discussion forums to develop employability (25 mins)

Part two of the workshop will include a demonstration of the online discussion for employability modules at Napier University and Hong Kong SPACE. The participants will then discuss the use and application of the online discussion in their own learning and teaching context.

4. Discussion on developing employability skills with our students (10 mins)

In view of what’s been said so far, the participants will have an opportunity to share their ideas on how to develop students’ employability skills. There will be an opportunity to ask questions.