

OTLA Project Introduction

Transforming Business Teaching, Learning & Assessment to meet current Industry Standards

The Education and Training Foundation (ETF) and Association of Colleges (AOC) funded project was delivered across the Activate Learning Group, Guildford College Group and South Devon College from July 2018 till January 2019. The 3 key themes of transforming the business curriculum were as follows:

Employer partnerships

Part of a high quality, modern curriculum for vocational courses involves employer partnerships. The project built new employer partnerships to provide opportunities for staff industry immersion and projects to engage the students, as well as exploring how projects should be run for optimum student experience.

Staff industry immersion

The principle of this is to ensure all staff have up-to-date industry skills and knowledge relevant to what they are delivering. All staff were expected to complete days in industry (rather than just attending training) to ensure they can deliver an engaging curriculum.

Preparation for External Assessments

The new BTEC National Qualification Framework courses have presented issues in colleges across the UK and in various subject areas. Vocational teaching staff are often untrained in delivering to an end-point assessment and for various other reasons vocational course students find external assessments challenging. The project explored how to best prepare learners for assessments of this nature.

The key outputs of the project include a recommended Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme, a How2 guide and specific guidance on external assessments, which are detailed below. These are in addition to a bank of resources which support staff specifically in business. All these resources were produced as a direct result of the findings from the project.

Introductory Videos

There are 3 videos available to view on the links below which describe the key achievements of the project:

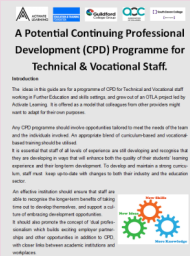
Video 1: Jon Childs, Project Manager: A reflection on the overall project outcomes and key findings and successes with specific examples, found here: <https://youtu.be/L1h6JQaToaw>

Video 2: Aidan Arnold, Faculty Manager: An explanation of the impact of the project on staff development, the student experience and how delivery has changed as a result of the project, found here: <https://youtu.be/vkIVfqDICUo>

Video 3: Paula Aitkin, Teacher: An explanation of her experience of the project and what has changed in her department, with a focus on training accessed, changes in delivery and her own development, found here: <https://youtu.be/iID8McFTOOs>

Project Resources

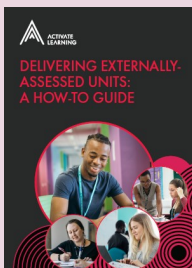
1) CPD Programme



This is an A5, 4 page leaflet which describes a suitable programme of continuing professional development for technical and vocation staff in FE settings. It covers suitable curriculum-based and industry-based ideas, as well as next steps following completion of CPD.

The document is designed to be used by both staff and managers to consider various development ideas and how best to manage the process.

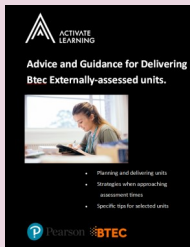
2) How2 Guide



This is an extensive guide to how to best prepare for external assessments. Main topics include planning (e.g. how to maximize timetables), limiting overload of information, strategies for content delivery, and methods of preparation near assessment time.

It is designed for both teachers and managers to read and digest when planning to deliver externally assessed units, which are becoming more common on vocational courses and will continue to become more common with the introduction of T-level qualifications.

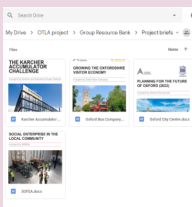
3) External Assessment Guidance



A condensed, basic version of the How2 guide which includes some of the key points to consider for how to best prepare learners for external assessment. It has a page which focuses on 1 particular module, which might be adapted for different courses and units to focus on key points (such as those from external examines reports).

It is designed for teaching staff rather than managers as it focuses on delivery and preparing students more than planning.

4) Resource bank



An online bank of resources developed for staff involved in the project. As the project was focused on transforming the business curriculum the resources are focused on business and include teaching and learning resources, past papers and project briefs formed from employer partnerships. This bank can be located here:

<http://tinyurl.com/yxtxtm5c>

This guide was written as part of an ETF and AoC funded project. The project was run across several partner institutions, including Activate Learning, Guildford College Group and South Devon College.