

Assessing Experiential Learning during Sandwich Placements (Dr. Jakša Kivela, HTM)

Activities carried out during the project and their impact in improving teaching and learning, where appropriate

Stage 1 – Investigation – generation of relevant data – analysis (Jan. 2004 – Sep 2004)

- a. Investigating and constructing a data base of placement programmes and placement assessment types used - (at this stage the programmes are unknown because the author has not approached the relevant departments, however, degree programmes at the School of Hotel and Tourism Management will be participating in this project, and other earmarked departments include: School of Nursing; School of Design; Department of Management; Department of Building Services Engineering; Department of land Surveying and Geo-Informatics; Department of Shipping and Transport);
- b. Analysis and evaluation (against the review of literature and 'best-practice' the current placement assessment practices);
- c. In depth interviews about the quality and effectiveness of current the placement assessment practices (sandwich placement students, placement supervisors, and placement tutors);
- d. Analysis and evaluation (against the review of literature and 'best-practice' the current placement assessment practices as perceived by placement students, placement supervisors, and placement tutors); and
- e. Prepare a preliminary findings report and stage the first Intra-faculty seminar at the PolyU.

The above activities were completed as per the last report whereas Item (d) and (e) is still ongoing.

Stage 2 – Implementation of assessment initiatives (Sept. 2004 – Jan 2005)

- a. Development of sandwich placement assessment model;
- b. Implementation (piloting) of the proposed sandwich placement assessment model at the School of Hotel and Tourism Management;
- c. Evaluation of the piloted sandwich placement assessment model;
- d. Conducting dissemination/sharing of findings vis-à-vis intra-institutional workshops and seminars;
- e. Reporting and evaluation of the overall project efforts; and
- f. Writing up of final report

As noted in the last report - Item (b): Despite the enthusiastic acceptance of the proposed sandwich placement assessment model by the School's Joint Programme degree and Higher Diploma Committee, the School's Quality Assurance Committee, and the School's Placement officer, the "new" assessment model was deemed as "too difficult" to implement, despite the fact that all of these entities agreed that (a) current placement assessment model in use is lacking, and that (b) the proposed model was pedagogically far more appropriate.

NB:

On a happier note however, as the academic advisor to the Cartias Bianchi College' "Hotel and Tourism Management" Associate-degree programme, a modified version of the proposed sandwich placement assessment model (see draft paper in the last report) has been adopted by the CBC for their new AD programme. Importantly, this new AD programme was recently validated by the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation.

Remarks:

Item (c, d, and e):

This objective might be pursued subsequently with a new cohort of Caritas Bianchi College' "Hotel and Tourism Management" Associate-degree students.

Item (f):

All interviews have been completed and data is in its final stage of analysis. A conference and journal article paper is now being written.

The impact of these activities in improving teaching and learning

Arising from the findings of this study, a recommendation has been put forth to the School of Hotel and Tourism Management at PolyU for its Work Integrated Education (WIE) to adopt a range of assessment recommendations. These have been incorporated into the new Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Tourism Management degree programmes which commence on 1st September 2005.