

Learning and Teaching Conference 2012

Abstract 4A

Empowering students to promote independent learning: A project utilising coaching approaches to support learning and personal development.

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With the publication of the White Paper (2011) focusing on student experience, together with the increase in tuition fees and the changing landscape of higher education, there is an interest within the sector in initiatives which enhance the learning process. Coaching offers an approach which seeks to enable and empower learners and thereby has the potential to contribute to the personal development and facilitation of solution focused approaches which are transferable to the workplace.

Key staff in an institution were offered training in coaching techniques and began to utilise this skill in a range of settings. This paper focuses on the integration of coaching techniques into personal practice and identification of the opportunities for using these tools to enhance the learning experience and to consider the potential effectiveness of these approaches in a variety of educational contexts. In particular it explores the use of coaching approaches with two groups of students via the evaluation of a small scale project using coaching applications. The aim was to enhance the student experience in relation to self-motivation, personal development planning and development of solution focused approaches. To this end coaching tools were employed in the context of personal tutorials, staff- student liaison activities and student initiated learning modules. The learning from the project highlighted the potential benefits of coaching in other specific educational settings.

References

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Outcomes

1. understand a basic range of coaching models
2. identify the potential benefits of utilising coaching approaches to support personal development planning and promote development of a solution-focused approach to problem solving as a graduate attribute
3. identify opportunities to using coaching approaches and applications in other educational contexts and settings