

Title: Virtual world nursing: providing a student led international learning experience via wikis

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Abstract:

Session Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- Appreciate the potential of wikis for providing shared learning spaces and overcoming geographical barriers
- Discuss potential application of the model to their own teaching practice

Session Outline

Key issues to be addressed are:

Wikis are increasingly being used as learning spaces in academia as they provide a student led collaborative learning experience and have been seen to promote active student engagement in learning (Brown et al, 2010; Choy & Ng, 2007). Wikis provide the opportunity for partner institutions to provide shared learning experiences between students thus providing the opportunity for students to engage with their overseas peers in specific learning activities. Traditionally, most international learning experiences in nursing are focused on the need for exchange programmes or overseas student placements. Whilst it is recognised that this may be the ideal, there are a number of social and economic factors which inhibit students' ability to undertake prolonged overseas placements. A team of academic staff from Edinburgh Napier therefore sought to develop a module which offered an authentic international learning experience, which overcomes such barriers and widens the accessibility of the international learning experience, to all students. The module used a series of wikis as the shared learning space with key topics for students to explore together and develop their own learning. Thus the module content was student generated.

This paper will report on the evaluation from the first cohort of students on this new and innovative international nursing module. In doing so particular focus on what the students

found particularly engaging and worthwhile in the module and some of the limitations inherent within the module. Recommendations for further development will be made and emphasis will be placed on where and when to think beyond the opportunities offered by institutional VLEs, and the

Participants will be encouraged to explore, through discussion based activities, how this module may apply to their own teaching practice.

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

Time	Content	Format
5min	Introduction and aims of the session	Presentation
25min	Presentation of pedagogical principles of wiki based learning and findings from first cohort review	Presentation
10	Activity: how can wikis facilitate student generated learning in your practice?	Group discussion
5	Summary & questions	

References

Brown, G. Quentin-Baxter, M (2010) WikiVet: building a community of practice to support a self-sustaining wiki for veterinary education. *International Journal of Web Based Communities*. **6**(2): 183-196

Choy, S., Ng, K. (2007) Implementing wiki software for supplementing online learning, *Australasian Journal of Educational Technology*. **23**(2): 209-226.