

PODCAST 1

Introduction to the Lifewide Learning Award

Guidance Notes

This podcast introduces the University of Surrey's new Life-wide Learning Award which is being piloted between May 2010 and March 2011.

Background

The University of Surrey is committed to helping students to make their own education more complete through the things they do on or off-campus in addition to their academic programme.

The employment world is so competitive these days that students need to offer much more than just a degree. The Surrey Lifewide Learning Award is designed to enable students to gain recognition for the learning and personal development they gain through doing things that are additional to their degree.

The idea of Life-wide learning has been developed at Surrey. It encompasses formal and informal learning in the classroom, on work placement, in paid or unpaid part-time work, community service and other voluntary activities, through travel and exposure to other cultures, participation in sporting and artistic activities, through being a parent or caring for others and in many other aspects of life. It is this 'whole life' learning that enables people to become who they want to be.

The award promotes a number of key capabilities that are important to being successful and fulfilled in life. These capabilities are particularly important to helping students gain employment or run their own enterprise.

The Award is being run by the Surrey Centre for Excellence in Professional Training and Education with the support of the University's Careers Service. It provides a framework within which you can think more deeply about the career choices available to you and there are opportunities within the programme for you to meet an experienced advisor to discuss your career plans or help you form better plans.

We believe that the award will contribute to your competitiveness in the job market. It can be highlighted in your CV but more importantly, it is the new awareness of your own capability and identity that make you who you are, that will enable you to present and market yourself in the competitive world of job seeking.

Who is it for?

In the pilot project the award is for undergraduate students. We are looking for upto 100 students to join the pilot project which will be completed by March 2011.

The award is open to undergraduates at any level although we anticipate that it will probably be mainly of interest to level 1 and 2 students. It might help you prepare for your placement or give you the edge in gaining the placement you want.

The award is also open to students on work placement and the scheme has been set up so that it can be completed at a distance.

What does it involve?

The award is designed so that you can take advantage of and build on what you are already doing. To achieve the award you must:

- 1) Participate in a self-managed personal development process, taking responsibility for creating a personal - professional development plan, engaging in self-determined activities and experiences and periodically reviewing your own development.

Activities are likely to include a mix of skills-based training activities, learning gained through part-time work or voluntary activities, and other significant activities defined by the scheme. These are open to negotiation with the scheme coordinator. Any qualifications gained externally, for example a national volunteering award or Duke of Edinburgh Award could also be included.

- 2) Participate in three workshops to facilitate self-evaluation, personal development planning and CV preparation.
- 3) Create a Life-Skills Portfolio to record and demonstrate how learning is gained and integrated through a variety of life experiences including: 1) skills training on or off-campus 2) experiential learning through work, volunteering or other significant activities.
- 4) Prepare a reflective account (about 2000 words) to summarise the learning and achievements gained (and often already gained) through the experiences documented in your portfolio.
- 5) Prepare an enhanced CV to demonstrate increased self-awareness of what you have learnt and how you have developed, to add value to your employability prospects.

The **total effort** required to gain the award, including planning and evaluation workshops, portfolio creation, engagement in life-wide learning experiences, and preparation of a reflective account and an enhanced CV is about **150 hours**. Bearing in mind that you are likely to be involved in experiences like part-time work and volunteering anyway, the amount of additional time will be more like 50 hours.

The podcast resources, guidance notes and tasks on this webpage will provide you with the information necessary to complete the award they cover

PODCAST 2 Our life as a resource for learning

Guidance Notes

TASK 1 Create your own Life Map

TASK 2 Evaluate your own life-wide learning

Example Life Maps

PODCAST 3 Dealing with situations

Guidance Notes
Task 3 Situations in your life

PODCAST 4 Developing your capability
Guidance Notes
TASK 4 Opportunities for developing my capability

PODCAST 5 Creating a personal development plan
Guidance Notes
Directory of Opportunities
TASK 5 Create your own personal development plan
Example personal development plans

To register for the award you will need to complete a Learning Agreement Task 6 after you have watched the podcasts for Workshop 1 and completed the tasks.