A Peer Assisted Learning Project for Nursing and IT students

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Abstract

Previous research by students in Faculty of ACES and observations in the Faculty of HWB have identified the lack of IT confidence and competence in Nursing students in the Faculty of HWB.

Equally observations by the professional experience and placement unit of Faculty of ACES have identified that although IT students are technically able, they are deficient in relevant experience of key employability skills.

Therefore both sets of learners would benefit from a symbiotic project to improve their employability and professional skills.

Introduction

The project aims to develop employability and professional skills of Nursing and IT students at Sheffield Hallam University, through;

- Providing sustainable peer-assisted learning framework

- Developing learning mechanisms to identify and evaluate their skills deficiency and development

- Supporting IT students in applying their skills to support nursing students

- Encouraging IT students to provide feedback to support Nursing students personal development

- Giving nursing students practical experience to develop IT confidence and competence

- Supporting nursing students in providing feedback to support IT students personal development

- Enhancing the students capacity to learn autonomously

Implementation

Nursing IT was offered as an opportunity in Sheffield Hallam University's venture matrix , an opportunity for Level 5 IT students to:

- manage, market and provide a service provision

- provide a regular lunchtime IT clinic for level 4 Nursing students

- develop Nursing students digital fluency, hence employability skills

- receive feedback on their employability skills; communication, interpersonal, negotiation, and management
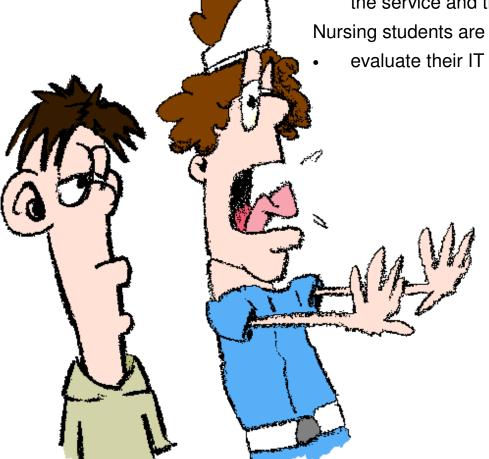
Two IT groups have been successfully recruited to provide the service on Monday and Tuesday lunchtime for 2 hours each day.
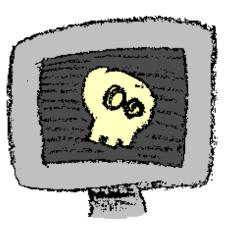
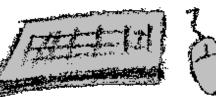Two IT student groups are developing:

- their professionalism to provide the IT clinic

- the service and presence in Robert Winston Building

- the marketing strategy to advertise the service to the Nursing students

- a feedback proforma for Nursing students to feedback on the service and their employability skills

Nursing students are to:

- evaluate their IT skills and identify deficiencies