Title: GSE1 Postgraduate Information Literacy and Communication Skills Training-Project Orientated Delivery

Subject: Project Orientated Redesign of a Post Graduate Module

Overview:
- Module presented by the Faculty of Science and Engineering in cooperation with the Subject Librarian from Learning Teaching and Research Development in the Library
- Original format was four three hour workshops plus 18 hrs self paced course work using interdisciplinary written and verbal skills training tasks.
- Translate a peer reviewed Journal paper to communicate it to a interdisciplinary audience and prepare a short presentation.
- It was enhanced with the introduction of a peer-learning component by dividing participants into four groups of eight.
- A project orientated and problem based learning (POPBL) approach has been shown to work well in the delivery of educational outcomes and also in the delivery of Information Literacy.

How it Works:
There were four Workshops:
- Workshop 1: Professional Inter-disciplinary communication skills development and introduction to the projects: a written Technical digest and a Communication presentation. Information Literacy lecture.
- Workshop 2: Verbal communication & Sample Presentations. Feedback on Group Project Plan.
- Workshop 3: Professional Communication Skills & Professional Meeting Guidelines
- Workshop 4: Group Presentations and discussion/feedback. The technical digests are submitted prior to the final presentation for feedback on the day.
- Moodle discussion forums were active for each group
- Individual reflections are submitted on Moodle on the course content and what they gained from it.
- A Module participant feedback form was completed

Impact: Positive: The majority of the positive feedback comments related to the group project component. Many of the participants indicated that this was a very valuable form of experiential learning.
Negative: Workshops were too long and not interactive enough. Individual assessment element needed as well as group-based.

Lessons Learned:
- Further develop the inter-disciplinary group (team) component but limit group size to max of 6
- Include an individual component relating to the individuals research topic
- Less workshops and more spaced out to facilitate significant self paced and group work
- Pre-reading as a requirement to encourage more interaction at workshops
- Reduce the number of participants at each session
- Offer a list of group project topics for each team to pick from in the first week

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