

Learning Teaching & Assessment Resources

Authentic Assessment Exemplar:

Assessment Title	Employment Experience
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Module Title that Assessment Delivered on	MECH2039 Employment Experience
Primary Student Cohort (Year on Programme / FT or PT or Both / UG or PG or AP)	

Overview of Assessment (Max 100 words)

I supervise the Employment Experience Module with the semester 1 stage 2 Mechanical Engineering Ordinary Degree class. The Module MECH2039 is a voluntary module that if the students pass successfully, they receive an exemption from the module MECH2002 Professional Development in semester 2 stage 2. This module was initialized by a recommendation from Engineers Ireland to incorporate more employment related activities into the module. Also, it has noted through student attendance that a large part of the mechanical student cohort is engaged in part time employment, and it was agreed at departmental level that some academic benefit could be aligned with this. This module was set up as a pass/fail module where the students must complete an Employer/Employee Questionnaire, submit a detailed Professional Employment Experience report and make a PowerPoint Presentation to a panel of Mechanical Lecturing staff.

What Change was Made to Assessment to Enhance its Authenticity? (Max 100 words)

I introduced the new requirement for an Employment journal which encourages the students to focus on the activities, tasks, projects, and training that they received and completed, this will form the basis of the report. I then staggered the completion of the 4 deliverables over the 12-week duration of the semester 1 module, this schedule is given in week 1. While this is a pass/fail module I advised the students of the indicative effort involved with each part of the module deliverables. i.e.

- Employer questionnaire, a requirement for module entry but no marks awarded.
- Employment work journal 20%
- Employment Experience Report 40%
- Professional PowerPoint Presentation to the Assessment Panel 40%

These deliverables will enable the Employment Experience assessment to be constructive, modular, and intricate in nature. The employer questionnaire to be completed as a as an entry requirement and starting point of the module.

What was the Impact on Student Engagement / Performance? (Max 100 words)

This a voluntary module so the stage 2 mechanical students completing this module must complete it in addition to their existing workload to get the benefit of 1 less module to complete in semester 2. The introduction of a work journal allows the student to list out and record all the activities and projects they have completed during the employment experience. The introduction of the indicative weighting system allows the students to gauge their time to be spent on each section to get the maximum overall result. The introduction of both these authentic assessment measures has increased the student engagement/ performance in the following ways:

- The employment journal can be used to record the activities and training completed during the employment, allowing the report and presentation to be started on time.
- The employment journal can be used to align the employment activities against the module learning outcomes.
- The indicative weighting system allows to student to plan the workload of the full semester.
- By staggering the completion of the 4 deliverables over the 12-week duration of the semester, the student engagement is maintained throughout the module in tandem with the workload and not just at the end which would coincide with other continual assessments and examinations.

One Thing you would do Differently Next Time (Max 50 words)

Based on Q6 module student feedback forms I have shown a number of past Employment Experience Reports during the lectures as reference examples. I have also brought back a number of past students who completed these reports to talk about lessons learned from this module.

Authenticity Indicators

