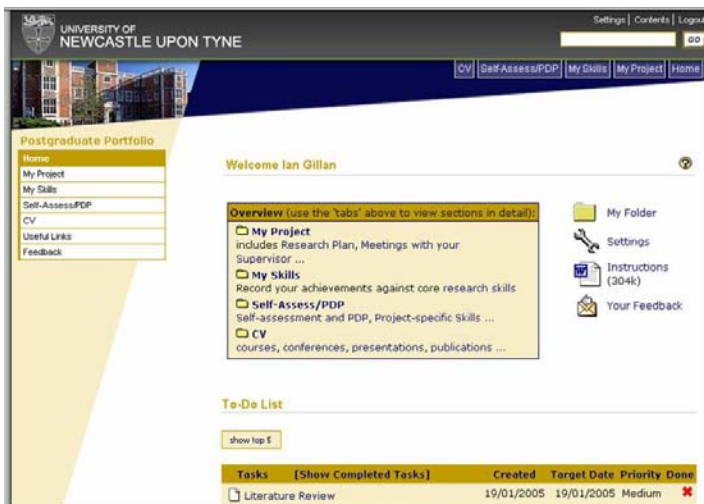


ePortfolio for Postgraduate Researchers: PDP to support the development of transferable and research skills

Newcastle University developed a "Postgraduate Research Training Portfolio" based on the Joint Skills Statement (JSS) of the Joint Research Councils. Following successful piloting an electronic version in 2004/5 the ePortfolio was rolled out University-wide in 2005/6. The ePortfolio complements Faculty-based Training Programmes supported by 'Roberts Funding'.

Features of the portfolio that researchers use include:

- Research Plans
- Records of meetings with supervisors (shared access)
- Records of achievements against core research skills (JSS)
- Self-Assessment and PDP (based on JSS)
- Self-Assessment of project-specific Skills
- CV (including workshops, conferences, presentations, publications etc.)
- Unstructured area with shared folders / file upload



Supervisors can access institutionally owned data (eg. personal/programme details & training records), records of meetings. Students can also grant access for supervisors and others to view specific parts of their portfolio.

The system was developed as an extension to the 'ePET' ePortfolio.

Usage of the ePortfolio has grown (>40,000 hits in January '07) and it is introduced in Faculty Induction Programmes for postgraduate students. The portfolio complements Training programmes by making transferable and generic research skills more explicit (in the past this has often been 'tacit' knowledge not readily expressed to potential employers). It also aims to encourage students to take a more active role in their own development. The original paper-based portfolio included logs of workshops/training and presentations – in the ePortfolio has the advantage that the electronic format is that this data can be used by students as an integrated CV. Key issues raised by students at focus groups were: who could access the ePortfolio and what would happen to the portfolio after completion. Students can download their data and export it in EUROPASSCV format. A further project linked a Faculty workshop booking system so that attendance records automatically appear in students' ePortfolios.

The system will be extended to support progression and the formal project approval processes during 2007.

Further details at:

<http://www.eportfolios.ac.uk/postgrad>

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