



Institutional ePortfolios Video 3: Student Attitudes

How do students feel about creating an ePortfolio?

Some are seeing the applicability of this as they go into professional practice or for employment. So they see an incentive or they see the purpose. Others, who are struggling with it, are wondering why they are being asked to do this.

(Dr Bettie Higgs, University College Cork)

I think ultimately they find a lot of value in doing it. In the opening phases, there's sometimes a little bit of confusion about what exactly an ePortfolio might be and what it looks like and we would show them examples of completed work from graduates of the programme.

(Dr Claire McAvinia, Dublin Institute of Technology)

Initially, there's a lot of resistance to using the technology. More recently, we are getting younger lecturers into the programme. And they are less reluctant to engage with it. But the older, more mature students, didn't enjoy engaging with it in the first instance. However, feedback afterwards was that they were delighted that they were forced to engage with it. Because otherwise, they would still be illiterate in that space. And they really felt very proud of their achievement in having their own kind of, you know, website.

(Dr Fiona O'Riordan, Griffith College)

I think it's fair to say that in the process of creating it, most students saw it as just another thing, something else that had to be done. However, our students are people who have already completed an undergraduate degree with a high level of success in that undergraduate degree. They were highly motivated. Jobs were fairly scarce. And so we had a lot of very very compulsive students who worked very very hard on those ePortfolios even though they might not have, you know, they might have saw it was just another thing, but that didn't discourage them from doing high quality work. We were constantly being amazed by the attractive nature and the comprehensive nature of the work that they did in their ePortfolios. So in the process, I would say they weren't very happy about it. In the end, when they had the product in their hands, they were delighted.

(Dr Bill Hunter, University of Ontario Institute of Technology)

Largely positive. Again, because the age profile, you know, while we had some mature students, most of them are 19, 20, 21 so it's almost like, you know, a comfortable medium for them. So there wasn't any negative attitude. Perhaps in their, when we asked them to write up their educational philosophy, that was a bit of a stumbling block. But whether that was on an ePortfolio or in a traditional hand up, that still had to be written. So, you know, I would say no.

(Kevin Maye, Galway Mayo Institute of Technology)