



## Institutional ePortfolios Video 5: Platforms

### What platform do you use?

We decided to go with PebblePad as it met the needs of the health science students. But also, because we knew it had been, you know, available for at least a decade, and we thought they will have sorted out all of the issues by now.

(Dr Bettie Higgs, University College Cork)

They're more or less free to choose what they want. We did previously have Mahara hosted within the DIT, which we gave everyone a login to, to start them off so they had no reason not to start, which is one of the things we're very keen on – that there's nothing blocking the participant from starting to make their ePortfolio from day one. We have used other platforms like WordPress in a similar way. But once they're up and running, they're free to choose anything they want to use. The majority change because as they begin to explore the platforms for themselves, their own preferences emerge. I mean we had some very strong visual learners over the last couple of years who preferred the likes of Weebly or Wix, which seem to the current ones that seem to be in use, and I'm sure there'll be something else in another year's time but it's great to see that happening so that they can, in some ways, be making work for themselves by having to move from one to another. They don't seem to worry about that if it's doing what they want and presenting the work in the optimal ways they want to show their work.

(Dr Claire McAvinia, Dublin Institute of Technology)

Well, because this student, whose name I will say, because I think she should be acknowledged, Tricia Harris, because she chose to use Wordpress and we were so impressed with her work, we just continued using Wordpress. And that was what she was familiar with, and that's what she supported through our unit.

(Dr Fiona O'Riordan, Griffith College)

The platform we use is Weebly. We picked Weebly for the very reason that it's very user-friendly, and really didn't require extensive technical support. These students, we expected or we hoped would use their Weebly website as a repository for their own resources, which they could use in the classroom. And the feedback from the students was, well it wasn't

entirely suitable for that. Some of the videos and animations didn't seem to be that fluid. They didn't kind of pop up quickly enough. And I think the capacity to add pages is a little bit limited as well. I think the actual amount of content you can put on a free Weebly site is limited. And you would have to buy the licensed version if you wanted to put on more content. And we did want to keep it free, a free platform.

(Kevin Maye, Galway Mayo Institute of Technology)