EEE- LEARNING; engaging the novice traditional student in E learning
WHY BOTHER?

• Rationale for development (external & internal)
• Funding opportunity
• Reach a higher audience
• Alleviate pressures within the workplace
• Can enable more flexibility for completion of awards.
Background

• Student population
  – majority professionally qualified health and social care professionals (minority fulfil access criteria)
  - Students attend (part-time)
  - some students have limited academic skills
  - Some students have limited computer literacy

• Module Sits within
  • Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
  (School of Health Community & Education)
REFLECTION

Personal experience of DL/CBL
What helps me?
Collaboration with others
  student opinion
  expert advice
  technical help
Pitfalls and problems
Real World activity versus Virtual World

- **Real World**
  - Face to face
  - Expectations
  - Help on site
  - Don’t need high degree of computer literacy
  - Study leave from employer

- **Virtual World**
  - Flying Solo
  - May not access all materials
  - Help from a distance
  - Viewed by some as an easy option
  - Need for computer literacy
  - Study leave available
Getting Started
Where elearning portal opens:
Announcement page!!!

Own experiences of Blackboard-

DON’T want announcement page as first page students encounter.
No announcements found.
What student sees on opening module

Module Induction

1. Welcome to the Module
   Item is no longer available. It was last available on Jul 15, 2007 2:10 PM.
   Enabled: Statistics Tracking

   Induction To the module

   Hello! – A very warm welcome to the Foundations in Infection Control Practice.
   I am assuming that if you are reading this then everything is working as it should, but if you are experiencing any difficulties then feel free to contact me. The best way is by e-mail (joan.cochrane@unn.ac.uk) but if you need to telephone me, my office number is

   +944 +191 215 6078
   You will find further details around my contact details etc by double clicking the staff information button.

Getting started

   You are undertaking this module by computer based learning and
Welcome
Hello and welcome to the Foundations in Infection Control Practice Module. You should by now have managed to access the site—well done for getting this far. Many of you have already identified that computer-based learning (CBL) is a new concept for you. Don’t worry I am here to support as much as possible. Any IT problems associated with the web site can be rectified by accessing the IT help button within the Elearning portal. You should use the navigation buttons within this portal to familiarise yourself with things that are available to you while studying this module.
Student Comments at beginning

• “As infection control is such an important part of my role, I have been keen to undertake this module. This is the first web based module I have undertaken so am hoping that my IT skills will get me through!”

• Student one – received by email 02/04/2007
“I was able to access the module on line last night. I tried to send you an email but kept getting a message unable to send. I also tried to send a message to the group but got the same message.”

Student 2

“First time I have done any web based learning so it's all a bit 'scary monsters’ at the moment.”

Student 3
Evaluation of the Module

- Technical team collating own departmental evaluation on materials
- Very poor student return rate for evaluation
- Self evaluation – probably too critical
Questionnaires

“Scary at first but as I progressed developed more confidence in the programme. Found it difficult to get into some of the discussions as previous students had already said what I wanted to say.”

“Infection control is massive - I did not realize this until this module”
More comments from questionnaires

• *This is very hard*—*thought it would be easier than attending University.*”

• “I’m not a nurse and I find the materials very user friendly and applicable to all disciplines—scenarios can be related to my own area of practice and the discussion boards help me develop more insight into the subject.”
Telephone/email feedback

• “Pre course information very useful”
• “This is harder than I expected”
• “Very impressive materials”
• “Difficult to log into site on occasions”
• “really feel I have developed my IT skills as well as increased my subject knowledge ”
EXTERNAL EXAMINER COMMENTS

• “What can I say!! I feel that you have developed an excellent e-learning portal which is student friendly and shares sound research based lectures and interesting theme orientated activities. I am particularly pleased that the discussion board is being used and that the study and support materials are subject orientated.

• I have worked with some good e-learning packages in the past but find this to be well mapped and student friendly.”
Present and Future

- Some students reverted back to classroom delivery
- Share induction and study aid materials with other academics
- Continue to maintain module
- Add frequently asked Q & A section
- Academic development to change content etc
- Develop other modules for CBL
- Employers must invest in IT literacy for all levels of professionally qualified staff.
Useful References


- Talbot, C (2007) *Studying at a Distance; A guide for students*. Maidenhead Open University Press