

Exploring micro- credentials and digital badges

Collaborative cluster

*Anne Tierney
a.Tierney@hw.ac.uk
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overview

1. Background
2. Progress
3. Future work



Background

- Work done in HE sector
 - OU
 - Australia (Deakin)
- Used in a variety of professional settings
- Interest from Scottish government
- Covid highlighted need for
 - retraining
 - upskilling
- Need for
 - consistency
 - definitions



Stage 1: Collaborative Cluster

Heriot-Watt

Aberdeen

Abertay

Edinburgh Napier

Glasgow

GCU

RGU

St Andrews

Stirling

Strathclyde

UWS

JISC



Progress

- Review of international practice
- Scoping events
 - Staff
 - Alumni/(Grad) Apprentices
 - Employers
 - Students
- Report
- Recommendations

<https://www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk/en/resilient-learning-communities/completed-projects/exploring-the-potential-of-micro-credentials-and-digital-badging>



Emerging issues

- Complexity
- Credit-bearing (or not)
- Size/level
- Provider
- Robustness
- Reputation/trust

Wenger-Trayner, E., Fenton-O'Creavy, Hutchinson, S., Kubiak, C. & Wenger-Trayner, B. (2015) Learning in Landscapes of Practice: Boundaries, Identity and Knowledgeability in Practice-based Learning, Routledge, Oxford and New York, pubs.

A top-down view of a wooden desk. In the upper right, a portion of a silver laptop is visible, showing keys like 'tab', 'caps lock', 'shift', 'control', 'option', 'fn', 'command', 'Z', 'X', 'A', 'S', 'D', 'W', 'E', 'R', 'Q', '2', '3', '4', '1', and 'ESC'. Below the laptop is a white mug filled with dark coffee. To the left of the mug is a pair of black-rimmed glasses. Above the glasses is a small, round, green succulent in a dark pot. The background is a dark wood-grain surface.

External interest

- Queens University, Belfast
- Open University
- Heriot-Watt, Malaysia
- European QAA



Stage 2: Tertiary Network

Heriot-Watt

Aberdeen

Abertay

Edinburgh Napier

Glasgow

GCU

St Andrews

Stirling

Strathclyde

UWS

And college
representation (Glasgow
College, Edinburgh
College)

Chaired by Prof.
Jonathan Powles, UWS



Progress

- Glossary of terms
- Good practice guide
- Case studies

https://www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk/docs/ethemes/resilient-learning-communities/scottish-tertiary-education-micro-credentials-glossary.pdf?sfvrsn=c620a381_18#:~:text=Various%20definitions%20are%20based%20on,%2C%20discrete%20credit%2Dbearing%20course.

<https://www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk/docs/ethemes/resilient-learning-communities/good-practice-guide-for-micro-credentials-and-small-qualifications-in-scotland.pdf>

<https://www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk/resilient-learning-communities/flexible-and-accessible-learning/understanding-micro-credentials-and-small-qualifications-in-scotland>



Emerging issues

- Complexity
- Credit-bearing (or not)
- RPL
- Size/level
- Provider
- Robustness
- Reputation/trust

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Future work

- Project has been handed over to SFC
- Micro-credentials policy
- Micro-credentials Hub
- Intersection of MCs and RPL