12fed Gynhadledd Dysgu ac Addysgu

12th Annual Learning and Teaching Conference

10-12 Medi 2024 | 10-12 September 2024

Prif Siaradwr | Keynote

Yr Athro | Professor Lisa Taylor

Employability is a life-long, life-wide journey with employment destinations along the way (Taylor, 2023), requiring an individual approach, to foster agency.

This keynote will present some of the theoretical, pedagogical, and practical principles of employability. The Capitals Model of employability (Tomlinson, 2017) provides a robust framework within which to facilitate an individual’s higher education employability journey. Aberystwyth University’s employability strategy objectives highlight key areas of employability to be developed 2024-2029. Employability needs to be actively being considered within the curriculum and supported through extra-curricular and placement activities.

Placements are the most common employability activity within higher education (The Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services and Shortlist Me, 2022). Over 70% of graduates still work from home one or two days a week (Institute of Student Employers, 2023). Online placements remove some of the barriers to placements for many students (Gamage, 2021). However, working online requires a different set of skills, and can be challenging (Hughes and Thambar, 2023). Online placements can be used to better prepare students for the online world of working. The principles, research and impact of the award-winning Peer Enhanced e-Placement (PEEP), which is a placement delivered entirely online will be discussed. PEEP has been recommended in the recently published digitally enhanced blended learning Higher Education Commission - Policy Connect report (2024).

A workshop will follow the keynote lecture to offer an opportunity for reflection, consolidation and action planning to facilitate putting into practice the key theoretical, pedagogical and practical principles of employability in the areas of curriculum, extra-curricular and placement activities, to support the fulfilment of the Aberystwyth University’s employability strategy objectives.

