

CASE STUDY

Title: The development of a workshop series for learners at Innopharma Education

Themes: Learner support

Keywords (2-3 words): Workshops, learner supports, study skills, academic skills, enhancement;

Short Abstract (optional):

Insert Case Study 1 below (in form of text, images, multimedia etc.):

In October 2020, Innopharma Education achieved success in Stage 1 of QQI's Initial Access to Programme Validation process, gaining approval of its institutional capacity and quality assurance procedures. With the aim of enriching the learner support services in mind, the Learner Support team worked on developing and implementing a workshop series for learners.

While embarking on this project, there were certain elements that were important to keep in mind in order for this support to be effective and efficient for our combined learners. The workshop series would have to cater to the three branches of learners at Innopharma Education: learners on Innopharma-TU Dublin collaborative programmes, learners on Innopharma-Griffith College collaborative programmes and learners on Innopharma's own developed programmes. Programmes delivered at Innopharma range from NFQ level 6 to level 9. It was therefore important to offer a variety of workshops that would cater to the needs of all our learners.

Feedback was sought from learners and staff at Innopharma Education in terms of relevant workshop topics. The Learner Support team brainstormed the logistics of offering this support to our learners i.e., different start dates, VLEs, etc. The first workshop series for learners took place in the Autumn 2021 semester and was composed of eight workshops: four on study skill development and four on academic skill development. A workshop schedule was created and made available to learners. Keeping the demographic of Innopharma learners in mind and the blended nature of our programmes, workshops took place on Wednesdays at 6pm. They were composed of a 20-minute-long active presentation that was recorded and an additional 10 minutes allocated to Q&A. Post workshop, learners were directed to a short survey which gathered feedback and suggestions for future workshops.

Within this first workshop series for learners, we had 403 registrants; 188 participants; 442 recording page views by the end of the semester and an average workshop rating of 9.3. The workshop series was well received by learners across our various branches with comments of feedback such as: "Nice approachable info. Handy resources to have so thank you. Wish I'd had these in Uni years ago!"; "Great help, thank you"; "Really helpful, thanks!". To date we have had over 2,000 registrants and 1,000 workshop recording views.

Innopharma is currently embarking on the fourth Workshop Series for Learners. Since the first series in Autumn 2021, we have made many changes to make this support more efficient and beneficial to our learners. As Innopharma places great focus on career development, we now incorporate career focused workshops within each workshop series.

Various staff and lecturers have also become involved in the delivery of workshops which is a good way to engage with learners outside of their usual areas. As the Innopharma offering is blended programmes, it's only natural that we cater to our learners accordingly by offering workshops in the evenings. We have also recently started offering lunchtime sessions. Feedback is sought from staff and learners ahead of each series and enhancements are continuously made.



Image: Innopharma Education workshop schedule header

The Workshop Series for Learners has been and continues to be an excellent support for learners at Innopharma Education. There is a demand for academic & study skill development workshops as well as career focused workshops. The fact that workshops are recorded means that we have built a good bank of workshop recordings. These are available to learners to review as needed. There really is something to cater for everyone.