

GO BEYOND BOUNDARIES



Partnerships Across Boundaries: Making Employer-led Interdisciplinary Student Projects Work

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Overview

- Reflections on 10 years of designing and delivering the module, Employer-led Interdisciplinary Project
- What worked?
- What was challenging?
- What support made a difference?

Our Context

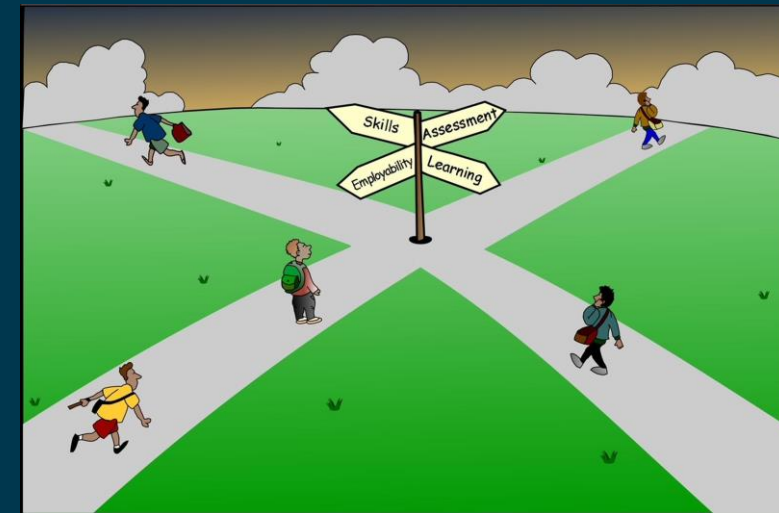
- Employer-led Interdisciplinary Project – 30 credit module.
- Offered to penultimate students from non-vocational degrees.
- Interdisciplinary – core theme in UoA 2040 Strategic Plan.
- 12-week virtual group project offered by a small business
- Includes interdisciplinary projects that combine several academic subjects, in which students integrate knowledge, skills, and perspectives to address a challenge or issue.
- Summative assessments: Individual professional letter (20%); Group video project presentation (30%); Individual reflective report, 3,000 words (50%).

Interdisciplinary Virtual Project Examples

Organisation	Geographical Location	Project Area
TrackGenesis Ltd	Aberdeen	Augmented reality in education and industrial training
Rosie's Social Enterprises	Aberdeen	Community and belonging project
Lerwick Engineering and Fabrication Ltd	Shetland	Developing a social media strategy
Wester Ross Fisheries Ltd	NW Scottish Highlands	Sea Heritage Project

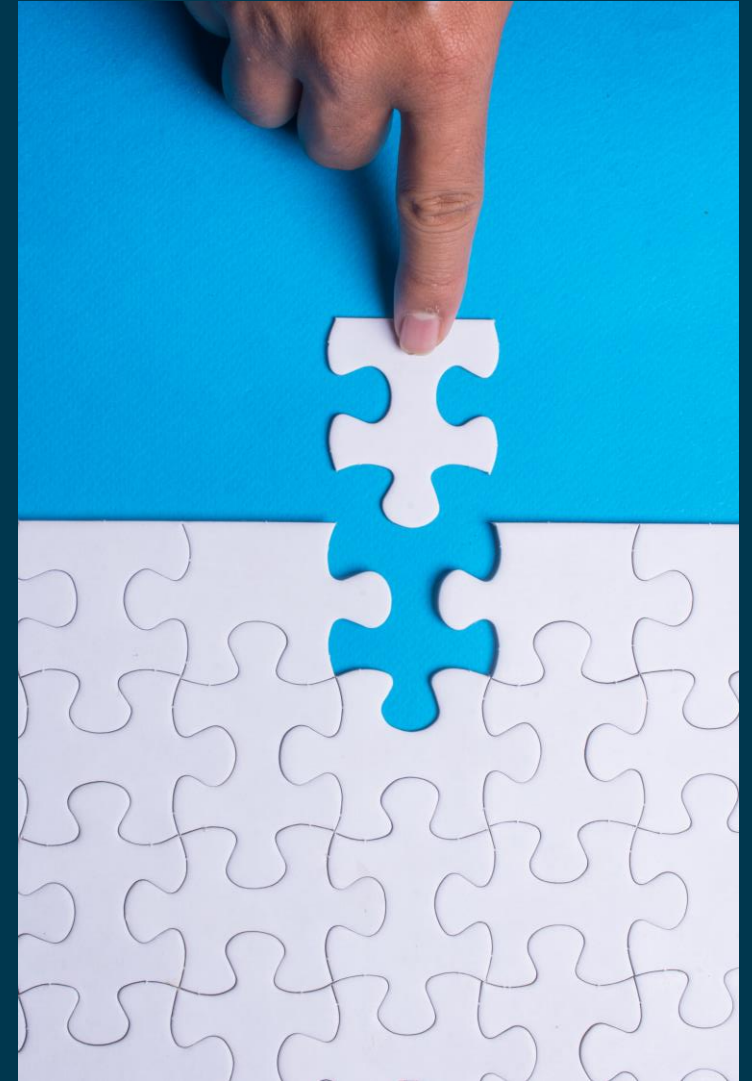
What worked?

1. **Empowering students with choice** by allowing them to select a group project topic aligned with their interests.
2. **Integrating key pedagogical touchpoints** to strengthen learning and reinforce module requirements.
3. **Engaging with diverse sectors and organisations** to source relevant, real-world projects.



What was challenging?

1. **Managing project creep** by over ambitious project hosts.
2. **Navigating schedule issues** as the Spring vacation break interrupts project continuity.
3. **Overcoming timetabling challenges** for diverse degrees.



What support made a difference?

1. **Undertaking partnership working with Interface who source the projects.**
2. **Using formative assessments to identify issues early.**
3. **Receiving the Principal's Excellence Award for Outstanding Interdisciplinary Module Team award.**



References

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Any Questions