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# Crynoldebau / abstracts

Embedding innovative assessment into a new third year undergraduate module: Student and staff perspectives

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Recent development work within the Department of Psychology at Aberystwyth has identified helping skills – particularly, counseling, coaching and mentoring - as applications of Psychology that have significant potential for future curriculum and scheme development. These skills are commonly listed by our students as having high employability value, both for those who are planning Psychology-related future careers and those who are aiming at more general graduate-level occupations. To this end, during 2016, staff within Psychology (Victoria Wright, Alison Mackiewicz, and Antonia Ivaldi) with existing interests in the psychology of counseling, coaching and mentoring developed a new module to address this identified need. In this talk, the module team will discuss the underpinning pedagogy of the module and our approach to teaching and learning, the balance of content and skills development and the novel mix of assessment methods. In particular, we describe the use of a structured portfolio-based assessment, supported by reflective journals and a novel use of one-to-one mentoring to support personal and academic development across the module. We also reflect on our experience of participating in the development, running and evaluation of the module, in addition to presenting perspectives and feedback from students who completed the module in 2016. We consider the implications of our model for the teaching of other modules within the Department and more widely across the University.