



West Midlands Education Innovation and Notable Practice

SOCIAL MEDIA IN NURSE EDUCATION

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UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Overview:	The use of Twitter, Facebook and a Blog have been combined as an aid to teaching and communication within the Nursing degree programme.
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Nursing is a subject in which there are rich resources outside of the mainstream use of lectures, text books and journals. Often undergraduate students are focused on traditional mechanisms of acquiring knowledge and not as able to use TV, radio, books, blogs and You Tube as selectively as more experienced learners. Nursing students in particular spend a lot more time in lectures and clinical practice than many of UG groups and as a result have less time to find and access different information sources. Students also benefit from being exposed to debate and argument.

We have begun to use Twitter and Facebook to post messages for the students about extra-curricular activities, lectures, media and literature that might be helpful to them in understanding their current work. The students are also invited to participate. Its early days but we have students posting links to interesting articles and resources as well as advertising equipment that others might find useful on their elective placements (Mossie nets needed by anyone?). Bit by bit the staff are getting more involved and we are building an excellent community. This community is also accessed by past and (potential) future students and so provides a way to strengthen our presence in the community, to keep in touch with alumni and to maintain close links with our current students even when they are out on placement.

We also have a blog on which lecturers post opinion, book reviews and reviews of radio and TV programmes. A student comments about this "I have found the blog to be extremely interesting and thought-provoking". We are making sure that some of the books that are the most relevant to enhancing student knowledge are made available in the library as feedback suggests that the students want to read these books but may not be able to afford to do so.