

Working with Families Module (SCQF Level 11, Trimester 3 Session 13/14).

This module forms part of the core programme for the MSc Health Studies (Family Health) programme which commenced in February 2014. The module commenced in Trimester 3 May 2014 for session 13/14 with 10 students enrolled on the module. The students are from a diverse range of health and social care professional backgrounds and from across a range of geographical locations, including two international students.

As the module is delivered online, good student support systems are essential to developing and maintaining positive student experiences. The students had been introduced to the Yammer network on the previous module to support synchronous group discussions and therefore at the outset of the Working with Families module the students were asked if they would like to continue using the Yammer network for discussion forums and academic support or use an alternative medium such as Big Blue Button, which they were also familiar with. The students opted for Yammer and gave very positive responses as to why this was preferable. Some of the students less familiar with technology felt it was less challenging medium, easy to engage with and post on to, while one of our international students from Italy, liked the simplicity of the medium and valued the opportunity to easily view past discussions and forums, prior to or following sessions. This feature was described by all the students as being particularly helpful.

The Yammer site allowed the team to set a private group which all of our students and lecturers were included onto for the weekly scheduled discussion forums. This site was also used to host our group and individual academic support sessions as required. In using the private group students were able to post discussion topics, supporting materials, useful URL links and other helpful module material within a secure group, which again was highlighted by students as a positive factor.

Overall, the module team and students have found using the Yammer network to be a very useful and helpful platform and one which has proven to be acceptable across both professional group and multiple nationalities and locations.

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