

University of Wales Trinity Saint David

BMSW4001
Academic and Employability Skills

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ASSIGNMENT TASK

Write an appropriately structured academic report where you reflect on your learning in this module, using a reorganised model of reflection.

Discuss your topics in your works.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this essay is to analyse and discuss objectively the reflection on my learning in this module, and the progress I made in identifying within me certain factual elements proving that learning has really taken place within me. Furthermore, this essay will demonstrate that I have developed as a learner through this Academic and Employability Skills Course, as I will show that I can apply what I have learned during the lessons, in the classroom as well as outside of the classroom. Therefore, I must demonstrate that I am confident with the subjects covered in class and prove that I have entered a higher form of educational thinking. In other words, I must show that I am a different person to what I used to be before joining this course. Having said that, I believe I have developed as a learner during this module because of the positive change of behaviour in me. This noticeable change of behaviour went through many stages, the most important of which are:

- paying more attention to things around me**
- Applying a gradual change in my behaviour**
- reading books and going over classroom materials**
- retraining my memory from short term to long term retention**
- making the effort to properly understand the new subjects that I am learning**

These steps enabled me to have a better perception of the way the world evolves around me, in a social, cultural, economic and political points of view. Basically, as a new learner, I can remember and recall facts. I can comprehend and discuss important subjects. I can apply what I have learned to real life situations, and I am able to illustrate. I am also able to write in a creative manner, to analyse properly, think deeply and work things out. Furthermore, I can put ideas together and generate new ones. I can make wise decisions and judgements.

DEVELOPMENT

University level education generally aims to empower students with specific skillsets, in order to help them with their thinking abilities, mature academically, and be able to solve existential and societal problems. Whilst on their learning venture, students may not necessarily be aware of the nature of the future challenges and experience the university courses they have embarked on. So, that is where higher education institutions and universities should be able to create opportunities to help students in their approach to future challenges, work across disciplinary and cultural boundaries, then learn from those multidimensional experiences.

Where I am concerned, I have had a positive approach to learning in this module, as it broadened my mind, enabled me to view all the challenges I faced as opportunities for my learning and development. So, I see this Academic and Employability Skills Course as a very good subject created by the university, aiming to develop the analytical and critical thinking skills in students. These skillsets are important and valuable in today's rapidly evolving society and business world, especially in the decision-making processes. I personally like learning and I have a strong ambition and desire of completing the Academic and Employability Skills programme I have enrolled in. I have an existential growing need to earn a formal qualification such as a degree, a master and beyond. With this strong ambition in mind, I feel well equipped to reflect on how to approach the future challenges and experiences of a university course, and more specifically, the Academic and Employability Skills Course I am currently taking as a mature student, with my busy life around difficult family and work-related issues.

I decided to study the Academic and Employability Skills subject at Degree level, as this will enable me to have both the theoretical knowledge and the practical skills necessary to master the professional field of business and project management. I understand that the challenges of studying at university level are great, but so is my desire to be exposed to the opportunities for learning and development.

Not having a formal qualification has really been daunting on me, over the years, always being reminded by my sub-conscience that I needed to go back to studying. I have always wished to widen my understanding and knowledge of business, the field I like, by learning subjects such as Entrepreneurship, Operations Management, Business Analysis and Strategy, Logistic, Project Management, Finance management, Budgeting, Time Management, Organisation and Behaviour of business owners, as well as the legal and economic side of the business management environment. The way I am approaching the future challenges of studying Academic and Employability Skills at university level, translates in me as the fundamental need to learn something new, to learn a trade, to acquire knowledge in a particular field, to become who I want to be and greatly contribute to empowering other human beings. And to do that, I need to learn the core elements of the subject that I elected to study, Academic and Employability Skills, bearing in mind that this acquired new knowledge could either equip me with the necessary skills to be employable or to create my own structure and know how to sustain the viability of a company. The constant reflection on how to approach future challenges and experiences of a university course led me to studying this Academic and Employability Skills Course, because it is very dynamic, as it occupies our lives today, the global society, the economies and all the political spectrums. Education may not be everything, but education is a good key to recognition and success. I believe that studying Academic and Employability Skills will enable me to learn how different companies and different organisations operate, in terms of management styles and differences in company ethos.

My personal research about this course and the University of Wales Trinity Saint David in general, guided me to discover that it is a highly experienced academic faculty, boasting some of the best academic teams within the education sector.

The lecturers are believed to deliver clear and engaging lessons to students in small class sizes, ensuring one to one advice and help when needed. And I am glad to confirm that I have experienced the privilege and pleasure to be taught by my current lecturers during this academic year. It is also encouraging to learn the good ethos of the University of Wales, with one of them stating and I quote:” Being ready to make a difference in the world means more than achieving a good degree. At UWTSD, we recognise that students will need a well-rounded education. We are an employment-focused university, dedicated to ensuring our students from diverse backgrounds develop the academic knowledge and practical skills to thrive.”

Furthermore, in their encouragement in the students’ experience, the university goes on by stating: “Together we deliver clear, tangible benefits for learners, employers, industry and communities by offering a vocational approach from entry level to post-doctoral research. The Group will be further strengthened with the merger of the University of Wales into UWTSD in due course”.

This powerful statement really inspired me into joining the Academic and Employability Skills Course at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, as they have a clear and exciting strategic plan which places emphasis upon applied learning, strong academic disciplines and a clear commitment to innovation, enterprise and knowledge transfer.

This state-of-the-art University, which is down to earth and connected to the current social and economic realities, is driving through structural and strategic changes which seem to be closely associated with industries, businesses and enterprises. Therefore, to me, this University has a clear national profile and vision

to deliver for the United Kingdom of Great Britain, and to celebrate its distinctiveness on the international stage.

The learner experience is clearly at the heart of the University's mission, as they have placed sustainability, innovation, research and enterprise at the core of their planning. The UWTSD has embedded sustainable development through their learning, teaching, curricula, campus, community and culture. Their teaching practice is aimed to inspire individuals and develop reflective graduates and practitioners who can make a difference in society.

So, through work-based learning, as we are being taught in the Academic and Employability Skills Course, through research of national and international excellence, knowledge and skills transfer, the University aims to play a pivotal role in the promotion of social justice, economic renewal and the development of social and cultural capital.

Since leaving mainstream education years ago, due to family considerations and financial difficulties, I never stopped thinking about returning to learning as I was stuck with this burning desire to complete my education and earn a degree.

In the meantime, as years went by, I had a few jobs, the most important of which was with EDF Energy, where I worked for 16 years, as a Data Administrator, a Senior Data Administrator, then as a Half Hourly Data flows Process Advisor before being made redundant in the early part of year 2020. My ability to learn and adapt to new situations while working for EDF Energy enabled me to adapt rapidly to my new state of unemployed, the challenges of financial hardship and the Covid 19.

So, throughout my time with EDF Energy, the love of learning and my strong desire of earning a degree, kicked in my hidden ambition to have a formal qualification. So, it was with this strong desire and ambition in my heart that I took the decision to return to education, as a mature student, aiming for a Degree and a Masters.

I then decided to enrol in the Academic and Employability Skills Course at Degree level, so I can be well equipped with both the theoretical knowledge and the practical skills necessary to engage in the business and employment world at a higher professional level.

I have always been fascinated with the business environment, and now that I have been offered the opportunity to join the Academic and Employability Skills Program, I will be able to enhance both my theoretical knowledge of Employability Skills and its practical application into the professional world. I will grasp every opportunity available to learn this exciting course and deal with the challenges that come with studying at university level.

On the course of my professional life, I have always been interested in learning and gain a formal qualification. As a matter of fact, I have been looking forward to studying Business Project Management in order to possess all important and necessary modules and feel comfortable, confident and empowered with for the required knowledge of a good Business Entrepreneur.

With regards to my learning needs, I think the Academic and Employability Skills Course is very interesting, as it will help me deepen my understanding and knowledge of business in practice. And certainly, at a later stage, it will also help broaden my knowledge and understanding of concepts such as Entrepreneurship, Operations Management, Business Analysis and Strategy, Logistic, Project Management, Finance management, Budgeting, Time Management, Organisation and Behaviour of business owners. I am also keen to learn about the legal and economic side of business management and environment. In the long run, this course will basically teach me the core elements which sustain the viability of a business. This new acquired knowledge will also equip me with the necessary skills to be employable or to create my own business.

Another factor which led me to joining the Academic and Employability Skills Course is the flexible timetables. I elected to attend my classes in the weekend, so I can plan and carry out other activities and commit to family considerations during the week.

My personal research about the University of Wales Trinity Saint David led me to discover that it is a highly experienced academic faculty, boasting some of the best academic teams within the education sector.

A further feel-good attraction fact is that help is always available. As soon as students make an inquiry, their teachers, staff members or some dedicated teams are ready to help. I also like the fact that educators can buddy up with students and help them with their queries as quickly and smoothly as possible.

CONCLUSION

So, in summary, reflecting on my learning of the Academy and Employability skills, reflecting on my approach of the future challenges and experiences of studying at the university of Wales Trinity Saint David, it seemed to me that the UWTSD is an attractive and a good place to study, in the end, because it has a good range of career-focused courses, with excellent student support and mentoring, as well as flexible study options.

As a student at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, I believe I can use the existing facilities of this institution to engage and commit to my academic learning and engagements. I will commit to uphold my personal, social and educational responsibilities towards the college, the lecturers, the staff and my fellow students.

This new learning experience of higher-level thinking should always be needed in our society in order to raise awareness around implicit assumptions towards learning. To help with students new learning experience in today's difficult world, the UWTSD is committed to deliver clear, tangible benefits for learners, employers, industry and communities by offering a vocational approach from entry level.

Human beings often make implicit assumptions based on personal experiences, often without even realising that this is what we do in our daily lives.

So, in my quest for learning and development through this Academic and Employability Skills course, I must have an objective and reflective approach, as I will face situations that could be unclear, confusing, complex, and unstable. Also, though the outcome of what I am aiming for may be uncertain, I must always try to enhance my situation. I must always thrive for the best.

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