

Student Perspective

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Midwifery

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My name is Benash Nazmeen and I am a 2nd year student midwife at the University of Bradford. Our midwifery course at Bradford University has often been called “Do it yourself midwifery” by staff and students because it is like “being thrown into the deep end of the water when you don’t know how to swim.”

PebblePad is used in my course a lot because it is the basis for a module that we have to be graded on called Life Long Learning. In this module we have to update action plans, thoughts, and peer reviews to show our personal and professional development throughout the year. My Module Leader for PebblePad remembers me for describing PebblePad as a “weight that has been tied around my ankle”. Now if you imagine

me “being thrown in the deep end of the water at the local swimming pool, without a single clue about how to swim and this weight tied to my ankle” you might just be able to visualise my scenario. This was my first year!!!

I’m happy to say that I am now in my second year and I have made PebblePad my own.

I have edited my homepage and also any action plans and webfolios, and so now I want to visit it and want to return to it to add more stuff and update. This year I have done the “compulsory stuff” needed that has been specified in my module brief (like last year) and lots more (unlike last year).

Whereas before I was scared of using different assets, now I like to challenge myself. I have made a blog for my Problem Based Learning peer assessment and add to it regularly. I have also learnt how to add my own peer reviews by my other group members. I now use PebblePad to communicate with my classmates and share work and have them comment on it, thereby improving my quality of work. Recently I have had to set up an action plan for my debate group at university and this was a great success. I gave everyone collaboration rights and we all edited our individual areas and managed to read everyone's work before our meeting - and may I say my group won our debate!!

PebblePad, when used appropriately, allows one to plan ahead, form action plans and set goals. It also allows you to give yourself deadlines and

reminds you of them, thus improving the quality of your work and your own time management. Now I can say that the very Module Leader who

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remembers me for describing PebblePad as a “weight that has been tied around my ankle” has now used me twice to demonstrate PebblePad and its assets to the first years and also during the new cohort interviews. I have learnt a lot from PebblePad and am now using it to “float in the water” rather than let it weigh me down.

1. What do you know now that you wish you'd known when you first started using PebblePad?

That I could share, copy, and even collaborate on my work on PebblePad with others.

2. How would you sell the idea of PebblePad to new students?

I would outline how, if used appropriately, it can improve time management and help develop the IT skills of each individual.

3. What advice would you offer to lecturers (or course designers) thinking of using PebblePad?

Give yourself an hour, maybe two, but enough time to fiddle around with it. I would suggest you go through and open each individual asset and see how it works and what you can use it for, and also definitely edit your homepage so that you feel welcome each time you open your PebblePad. If you're confused or unsure click on the Help question mark which is very useful.

Acknowledgements

Case study by Benash Nazmeen

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