

Dr Andrew Hirst

Teaching Fellow in Work Based Learning

Dr Andrew Hirst discusses the value of accessing the latest sector information on LinkedIn and how this contributes to his teaching practice. He also looks at how creating links to academic work on LinkedIn benefits his professional standing.

“Lecture slides can be published directly onto your LinkedIn profile, using SlideShare, so using LinkedIn can be useful to demonstrate your work.”

Networking

During his first few years of teaching at Sheffield Hallam, Andrew created and developed his own LinkedIn profile specifically to demonstrate to students how to network effectively. His use of LinkedIn developed from there.

One of the key features of LinkedIn is the opportunity to link and connect to others in a similar field in order to identify collaborators or contributors for academic seminars or papers. During a project involving computing in schools, Andrew managed to contact the previous administrator via LinkedIn for advice on how to progress with his own project. This ability to connect creates a professional network of support.

Celebrating the achievement of others or of ourselves is a great way to use LinkedIn.



Andrew joined Sheffield Hallam University as a senior lecturer in Enterprise and Business Development before progressing to Teaching Fellow in Work Based Learning.

Discovering and sharing information

Andrew values LinkedIn as a space for scholarship and to discover and share information.

“Reading posts and blogs on LinkedIn is really an effective way of keeping up to date with the industry....”

Andrew has found that LinkedIn makes it easier for this information to be filtered through to students.

“In the past we probably read the newspapers, the trade magazines. In paper form it’s very difficult to get that to other people.”

LinkedIn allows information to be circulated easily. Posting an article, or liking and adding comments to existing posts can bring them to the attention of students. With an interest in entrepreneurship, Andrew also follows LinkedIn influencers such as Richard Branson

Endorsements and recommendations

Andrew has endorsed skills on student LinkedIn profiles and students

“Students are proud that their skills have been endorsed by an academic and that’s an important aspect of teaching.”

This can be reciprocated as students can write recommendations in return and Andrew includes recommendations from students in his LinkedIn profile.

Written by Haleema Khan

© The Higher Education Academy 2015