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Paper 19: Mobile Learning on the Campus and Beyond

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E-learning and blended learning are now well established within higher education, and learning at a distance either in the workplace, at home, or elsewhere is now commonplace. The mobile revolution is being acknowledged as the next phase where student learning no longer needs to be located in fixed places within a campus, or at a pc.

This paper will look at the impact of these trends, as well as some of the potential technologies students will be harnessing now, and in the future. It will also draw on the experience of the School of Human and Health Science's involvement in a successful five Yorkshire universities collaborative bid, and current implementation, of a CETL programme focusing on Assessment and Learning in Practice Settings (ALPS). ALPS aims to ensure that students graduating from courses in health and social care are fully equipped to perform confidently and competently at the start of their professional careers and this is being done, in part, with mobile technologies.

In particular the paper will focus on the use of mobile technology for; mobile learning; reflection and assessment in practice; improving collaboration with peers; improving their critical thinking especially around "ethical practice". This is being rolled out for use within the campus grounds, placements, field trips, or internationally using the mobile technologies.

There will be discussion on how the programme is already producing benefits in terms of increased collaboration between disciplines within the School and with the CLS around IT innovations. We envisage that this can then be broadened out to other Schools and services, for mutual benefit through collaborative working and networking.

Overall it is believed that this paper will be able to inform other Schools and Services of the benefits, but equally the pitfalls, of the use of mobile technologies within education.