

SLICCs: Student-Led, Individually-Created Courses

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Coimbra Employability and Education Innovation Working Groups





What is a SLICC?

An empty course, filled with experience and structed by reflection

The course defines:

- The process to receive academic credit
- The Learning Outcomes (LOs)
- The assessment criteria







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Students define:

- The content (their learning experience and what they want to learn from it)
- How the LOs relate to their content
- How they will demonstrate completion of their LOs reflection & evidence







Three aspects

The experience the student is going to have.

The topic the student is planning to investigate throughout their experience.

• The students' **reflection** on their approach, learning and development throughout the process and what this means for their future.





The SLICC Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcome 1:

The topic the student decides to investigate and learn about through their experience, and how they are going to do this



Learning Outcome 2:

The range of skills and abilities they need for this experience and process

Learning Outcome 3:

A specific skill they are going to actively and purposefully work on

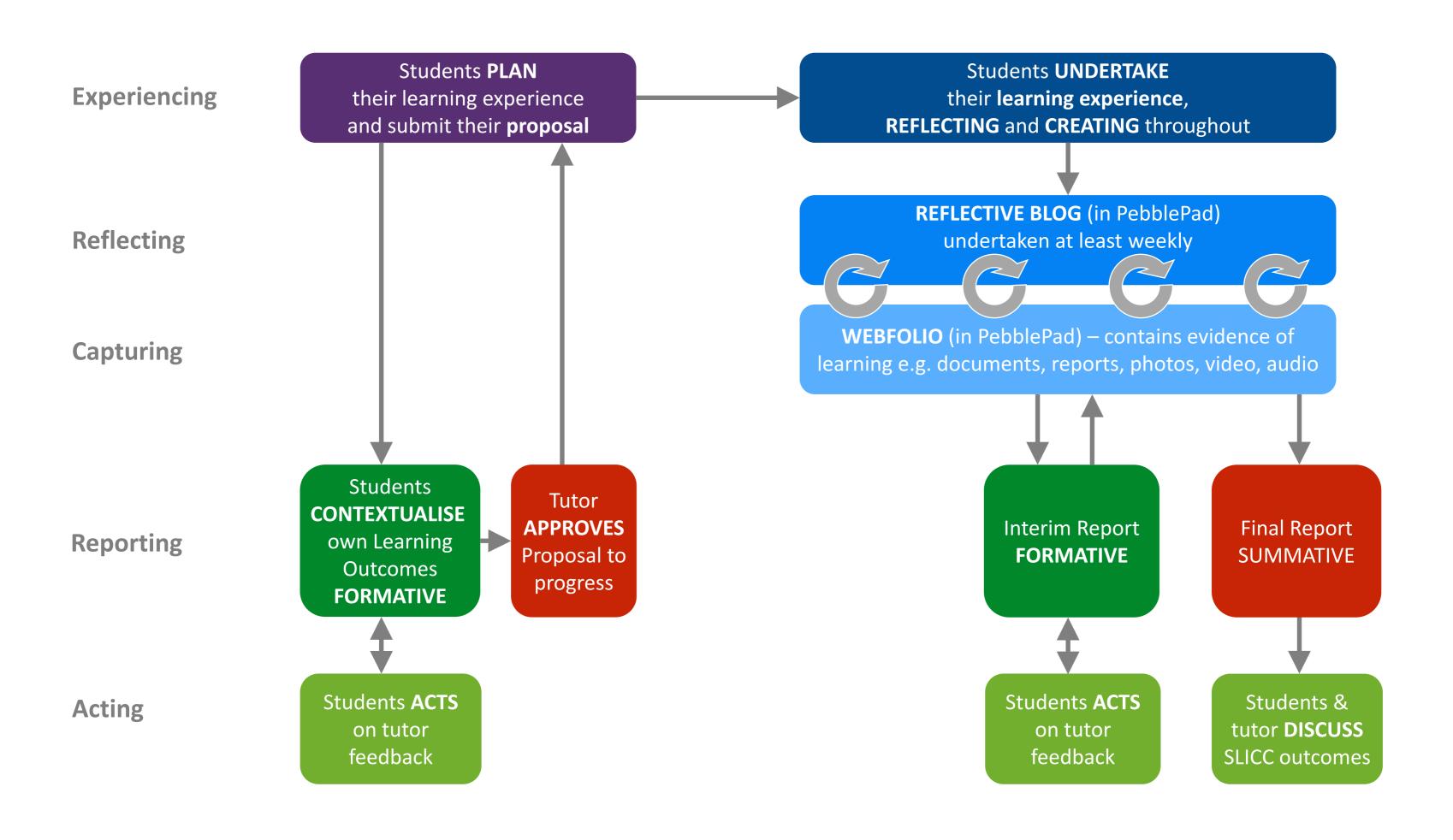
Learning Outcome 4:

A specific mindset they are going to actively and purposefully work on



Learning Outcome 5:

Evaluating and reflecting on their approach, learning and development and what this means for them in the future





Students' reported gains

- Enhanced skills
- Increased reflection and self-awareness
- Connecting past and present learning experiences, and linking to future plans
- Developing a 'mindset for learning'
- Assessment literacy
- Deeper and more diverse learning
- Freedom to make mistakes, but in learning from them can still get a top grade

'A fantastic way to get the most out of a summer project & develop essential skills.'

'I feel like my whole attitude to learning has changed because of the process.'

'I am now confident, and am able to apply all these skills not only through the rest of my degree but also in my future career.'

'This has given me the confidence to be more independent and feel less afraid of carrying out individual projects.'

'The reflection really helped highlight the learning techniques that work best for me.'



Where SLICCs are used

Centrally:

- Careers Service & IAD Summer activities: Year 1 and Year 2 undergraduates (typically 4-year programme)
- Careers Service Students As Change Agents: inter-disciplinary teams tackling external partners' challenges
- Edinburgh Global Network for Intercultural Competence to facilitate Entrepreneurship (NICE): inter-institutional,
 inter-disciplinary teams tackling UN SDGs

Disciplines:

- Across all levels of study pre-honours, honours, masters, doctoral students
- Range of disciplines in all three University colleges

Externally:

Increasing range of international partners – individual universities & consortia offering virtual experiences

Challenges and success factors

Design: scalable but resource-light and positive impact for all involved

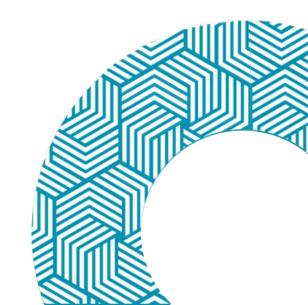
- Drawing on past experiences and expertise, e.g. Edinburgh Award (www.ed.ac.uk/edinburgh-award)
- Establishing a scalable model from the outset, and continuing to focus on efficiency and impact

Attitudes: overcoming uncertainty and the focus on assessing knowledge

- Phased piloting as staff and institutional comfort and confidence build in awarding credit for this type of learning
- Recognising importance of knowledge, but maintaining a constant and deep focus on using reflection to assess attribute development, with extensive support for students and staff: Reflection Toolkit (www.ed.ac.uk/reflection)

Flexibility and agility: providing solutions to current and future challenges

- Focusing on the underlying learning process and investing to keep it fully generic
- A tested and ready-to-go framework and resources that solve local curriculum design challenges





Contacts

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Websites and resources

www.ed.ac.uk/sliccs https://edin.ac/sliccs-resource-pack

Reflection Toolkit – www.ed.ac.uk/reflection

Students as Change Agents – www.ed.ac.uk/careers/students/undergraduates/build-experience/changeprogramme

NICE: Network for Intercultural Competence to facilitate Entrepreneurship – www.nice-eu.org

GloWD Global Experimental Live-Lab Design Studio – www.globallywedesign.com/2020-gel-lab-design-studio

Edinburgh Award www.ed.ac.uk/edinburgh-award