

Stephen Powell, thoughts mostly about learning

A specialist in inquiry-based, work-focussed, online supported learning

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Ultralab South Breakfast Presentation – Ultraversity

Posted on August 2, 2004, 10:48 pm, by Stephen Powell, under [...](#)

Gaining a degree qualification without quitting the job you love!

Ba. (Hons) Learning, Technology and Research [Anglia Polytechnic University Cohort Pathway Approvals Document](#)

[Ultraversity](#) offers a BA. Hons Qualification in “Learning, Technology and Research” and provides access to higher education to people who enjoy their work. The programme both develops students effectiveness in their particular work role, and also aims to help them gain the confidence and skills to influence and improve practice within their work setting.

The Ultraversity degree (from Anglia University in the UK) is delivered totally online and uses students workplace as the research focus of their degree. In his session, Stephen will explain how the degree programme works for groups of students in the UK such as teacher aids, office support staff, and for a wider range of students who are all committed to continual learning, trying new approaches and improving their professional practice.

Project [plan](#)

Ultraversity degree programme [aims](#)

Ultraversity degree programme characteristics:

- workplace context determines subject discipline
- full-time
- 100% online
- learning facilitators (lecturers), researchers (students), and expert witnesses (both subject and job related) as co-researchers
- online community of enquiry

Learning processes, protocols, and assessment:

- [the Ultraversity model](#)
- workplace reflective practice and action enquiry
- assessment through a portfolio of [patchwork texts](#) (Professor Richard Winter)
- online community of enquiry
- building towards an ‘exhibition’!

Degree programme scope:

- 1st cohort started July 2003 with a cohort 350 researchers
- 2nd cohort started April 2004 with a cohort of 100 researchers
- 3rd cohort planned start January 2005 with a cohort of 250 researchers

Researcher characteristics:

70% qualify for waived tuition fees, large number of mothers with young families, people who felt they had missed the opportunity for Higher Education

Workplace groups:

Teaching assistants, school office staff, special education, information centres, health workers,

Some researcher's work!:

[Ultrastudents](#) unofficial but great!

The [technology](#):

- Portfolio tool
- community software
- Blogs

UV us an action research project – what does this mean for the development of the degree?

[Comment \(RSS\)](#)

16 Comments



1. [Gina](#) says:

[August 3, 2004 at 9:55 am](#)

And if anyone is interested in research on the impact this programme is having on support staff in schools, please visit our research blog here

<http://slartibartfast.ultralab.net/~blogger/tta/>

where you can download out reports.



2. [Wei-Yen](#) says:

[August 3, 2004 at 12:14 pm](#)

Its great to read you are still around. Its interesting that the course is 100% online. I would be very interested to read about how the communication flows work in practice. Are you back in the UK btw?



3. [Stephen Powell](#) says:

[August 3, 2004 at 7:39 pm](#)

Thanks for reminding me Gina.

Hi Wei-Yen, I am in NZ at the moment so will no doubt bump into you in the near future up in Hamilton.



4. [Richard Millwood](#) says:

[August 4, 2004 at 7:58 am](#)

Stephen – what happened to exhibition? I am wondering about the notion of audience for students' work – how is their skill in communicating what they have learnt to an audience developed over three years or so and what is their eventual aim in terms of capability to communicate and defend ideas to critical audience?



5. [Stephen Powell](#) says:

[August 4, 2004 at 7:10 pm](#)

Good point, came 'out of my mouth' but does need highlighting under learning processes and protocols.

Also I will add a diagram that shows the degree modules.

P6

6.  *Ginny* says:
[August 20, 2004 at 11:39 am](#)

How to Ultraversity recruit for online facilitators, I'd be intersted in working for ultrversity as a facilititor and i have the experience. NO links on any of the ultraversity sites to point me in the right direction? Grateful any help you can suggest.

7.  *Stephen Powell* says:
[September 18, 2004 at 11:40 pm](#)

I answered Ginny in reply to an email she also sent.

8.  *johnson* says:
[October 15, 2004 at 12:25 pm](#)

At the breakfast presentation this morning Stephen Powell explained how the Ba. (Hons) Learning, Technology and Research degree programme at Anglia Polytechnic University works. He explained how a key objective of the degree was to provide access to higher education to people who enjoy their work, but want to study in Higher Education and can't afford to take three years away from work to study. The programme aims to both develop students effectiveness in their particular work role, and also aims to help them gain the confidence and skills to influence and improve practice within their work setting. The Ultraversity degree (from Anglia University in the UK) is delivered totally online and uses students workplace as the research focus of their degree.

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