



University of Bath

APEL for Oil Refinery Process Operators

The HE Skills Map (HESK) tool and guidance process challenges employed adults' view of a perceived gap between their skills and those needed for higher level study. This aims to help adults see higher education as a viable option.

The HESK tool and process helps adults assess skills and experiences they have gained through life and work against the skills required at Level 3, 4 and 5.

"For me personally it was a revelation. I never went into further education, and have always wondered what might have been. Although I believe I am of reasonable intelligence, I have always lacked self confidence and therefore I have not pushed myself as much as I could have." Ian

The project

A JISC bid secured by the University of Gloucestershire funded the development of the Co-genT Vocabulary Tool – a website listing skills and descriptors used at Level 3 – 8.

In 2010 – 2011, an adapted version of Co-genT (HESK project), used a list of HE required skills with descriptors at Level 3, 4 and 5, together with a three stage guidance process. The HESK tool developed through the free-access Profile Builder and information resources within Lifepilot, a one-stop IAG tool freely available to adults in the South West, developed by the WVPC.

The HE Skills Map three stage process

1. Participants complete the Lifepilot Profile Builder identifying their skills and experiences. The results are electronically mapped to the HE skills taken from Co-genT.
2. During a one hour guidance interview, starting with the best match skills mapped to the Profile, participants provide verbal evidence of their skills and assess their evidence against descriptors for Level 3/4 /5.
3. Participants receive results and guidance on next steps, including HE taster sessions.

2010-2011 impact

- Through Unionlearn, 14 employed adults were recruited. Results showed all had existing skills and experiences that map to Level 4, with some to Level 5;
- of the 14 participants, 13 felt HESK had helped them consider higher level study;
- participants claimed improved self-confidence and self-belief and participation in the project.

2011-2012 funding impact to date

- The mapping tool is fully electronic; **20 guidance staff** trained in its use e.g. Unionlearn Representatives, community workers and guidance tutors in FE colleges:
- **extended coverage to the wider SW** – through the Combined Universities of Cornwall's ESF project 'Raising Aspirations', which is using the HESK tool to support pre-HE entry guidance for adults:
- **guidance professionals trained in using the tool feel it enhances their guidance portfolio.**

Through the programme of training it is intended that 60+ adults will benefit from using HESK to help them recognise their existing skills and their potential for higher level learning.

The WVPC is a consortium of 7 higher education institutions and their collaborative partners in the South West.

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HE Skills Map is now available online and can be accessed as follows:

www.life-pilot.co.uk

Sign in using a sample login as follows:

Email: guest21@nomail.com

Password: Guest21

Go to 'My Lifepilot'

Go to 'Profile'

Retake the Profile to see how the skills map works. Click on the 'HE Skills Map' log icon on the Profile results page to see the evidence builder and assessment against levels.