



ALPS appoints ROI Academy to conduct Cost Benefit Analysis

Assessment and Learning in Practice Settings (ALPS) has commissioned The ROI Academy to undertake a Cost Benefit Analysis of ALPS assessment methods.

The Oxfordshire based organisation submitted a successful tender to evaluate the cost benefit of the assessment and learning approaches adopted by ALPS. A Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, ALPS is a collaborative programme between five Yorkshire universities who share the common goal of improving the confidence and competence of students graduating in health and social care.

Over the past five years ALPS has worked towards this goal by developing new processes and methods of delivery of work-based learning and assessment. For students training for a career in health and social care, work experience is essential. There are a wide range of generic and specific skills that can only be developed in the community, hospital or workplace. However, the practicalities involved in assessing students whilst they are actually in a hospital or the community mean it can be difficult to capture a student's acquired skills or competences. ALPS has piloted a new interprofessional mobile assessment and e-portfolio system. This allows students on placement to use specially adapted mobile devices to gather evidence of the new skills or competences they have achieved. The interprofessional nature of the assessments gives students the opportunity to receive feedback from members of other professions as well as their own.

The ALPS programme now needs to report back on the level of return on investment for all stakeholders, including partner universities, the NHS and the students themselves. A comparison between innovative assessment and learning approaches arising from ALPS activity and those used prior to the ALPS programme will be explored. Investment will be defined in both quantitative and qualitative terms. The ROI Academy will be responsible for evaluating both the qualitative improvements to student learning, as well as the economic benefits to the NHS and the universities involved.

Trish Walker, ALPS Programme Manager said, 'ALPS is an innovative and pioneering programme, and it is pleased to appoint another forward-looking organisation, The ROI Academy to conduct a Cost Benefit Analysis of its assessment methods. The Cost Benefit Analysis will feed directly into the evaluation of the Value for Money (VfM) achieved from the investment in the five ALPS partner universities. However, it will also inform further development of ALPS work, especially future embedding projects.'

Hedda Bird, Managing Director of The ROI Academy added 'We are delighted to be working with ALPS. Cost Benefit Analysis is a core part of our work to ensure organisations understand the impact and value of their investments in learning. The ROI Academy methodology ensures that the *process* of valuing ALPS assessment methods will provide a robust picture of where and how investments created value, as well as giving an overall benefit model.'

Additional Notes

ALPS

Assessment and Learning in Practice Settings (ALPS) is a collaborative programme between five Higher Education Institutions with proven reputations for excellence in learning and teaching in health and social care: the University of Bradford, the University of Huddersfield, the University of Leeds (lead); Leeds Metropolitan University, and York St John University. There are 16 professions across the partnership from Audiology to Social Work, and a wide range of partners including Yorkshire and the Humber NHS, practice networks and professional bodies.

ALPS is one of the 74 Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETLs) funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to promote excellence across all subjects and aspects of teaching and learning in higher education. Funding of £315 million over five years from 2005-06 to 2009-10 represents HEFCE's largest ever single funding initiative in teaching and learning.

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The ROI Academy

The ROI Academy, is at the forefront of measuring the success of investments in a wide range of learning related programmes. We use leading edge tools and techniques to model, maximise and measure the value and impact of learning with respect to business goals and organisational capability. Our suite of software tools and techniques simplify and scale implementation across an organisation. Clients include public and private sector organisations, including national and global businesses; as well as a growing partner network.

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