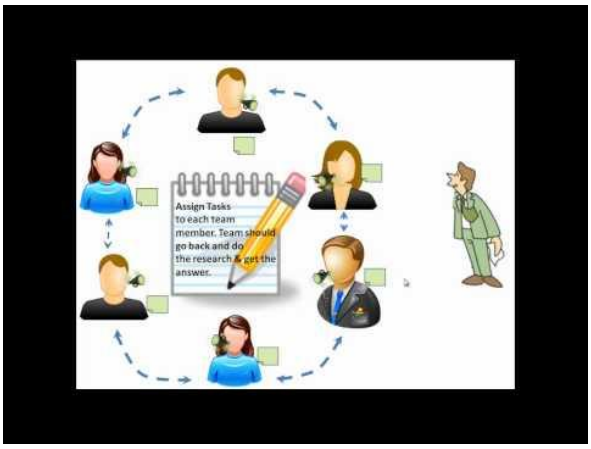
Facilitating problem based learning



Course Overview	Duration: 10 weeks Distance learning
Background	The objective of the module is to allow companies to structure informal learning that takes place within their organisation. This will be done aligning informal learning approaches with problems companies face using a technique known as problem based learning. The course will teach managers and trainers in SMEs the skills required to facilitate and deliver PBL in their organisation. The technique collaborates with learners to identify a problem in their organisation. The facilitator will guide the learner to assist them to construct the knowledge they require to solve the problem The learner will develop a range of skills in facilitation, critical thinking problem solving, management, communication and team work.
Learning Outcomes	The module aims to develop a student which uses a structured approach to mentor learners in companies to develop the knowledge they require to address an in-company problem. The student will be able to: • Apply learning culture theories and practices to develop an open learning culture in their organization • Collaborate with learners to identify a problem in their organization • Support learners in completing each stage of the PBL process to address the identified PBL problem. • Support learners to become self directed by mentoring them to search for and identify the relevant knowledge to enable them to complete the PBL process for a problem faced by business professionals. • Facilitate the problem based learning process • Facilitate a brainstorming session. • Demonstrate an awareness of a range of issues that may occur during the PBL process for example motivating students, resolving team conflicts, developing self directed learners • Reflect on the effectiveness of their facilitation and mentoring approach and

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	make suggestions for further improvements
Delivery	The module will be delivered primarily online. Video lectures, text based material and slides will be made available through an PBL ICT platform. The platform will illustrate sample solved problems and allow the learners to collaborate with peer learners. The learner will attend a 2hour induction and registration on Monday 25th April. The learner will be required to attend a 1hour tutorial with the tutor per week (online) and conduct 8 hours of sel- directed learning using the material provided to solve the company problem
Content	The content of the module is centred around preparing the organisation for PBL and implementing PBL approach in the learners organisation • What is problem based learning • Creating a culture of learning in a company • How to develop self directed learners • Selecting a problem for PBL for technology professionals • How to support the roles in PBL • How to support the PBL process (includes facilitation, brainstorming and guiding self directed learners) • Assessing problem based learning • Reflective learning
Entry requirements	The learners will be required to hold a leaving cert qualification.
Fee	Between April and July this course will be available for free (without the award of ECTS)
Programme structure	The module will be run over 10 weeks. It will be delivered completely on line to facilitate the demands companies face in terms of releasing staff for training. The learner will be required to attend a 1 hour tutorial and complete 8 hours of independent study per week. The learner will be able to access the tutor during this independent study as required. Weekly assignments will be submitted to the tutor
Registration	Please contact the Archimedes project manager Dr. Emma O'Brien at emma.obrien@ul.ie or 0861077414. Students will be required to register their interest before **Thursday 21st April at 5pm**

Note a pilot of this module will be run for free between April and June 2016

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