

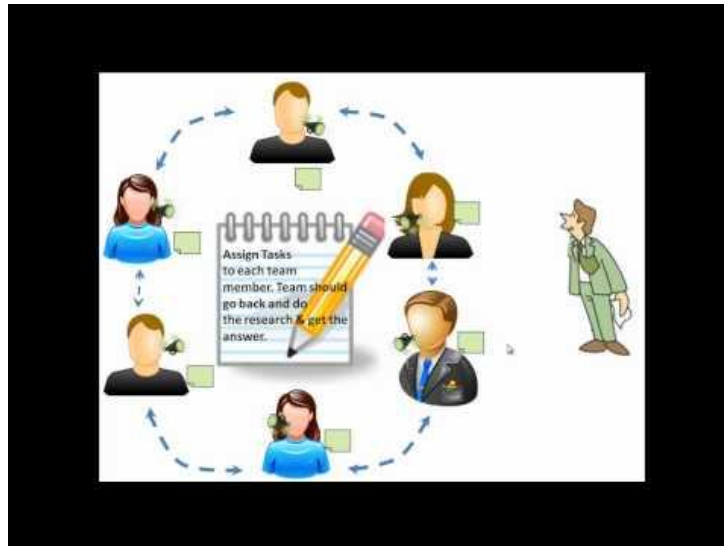
## Problem based learning for Business professionals

NFQ: Level 8, ECTS: 6

Duration: 10 weeks

Distance learning

*Note a pilot of this module will be run for free (without the award of ECTS) on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016*



### Course 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.

Problem based learning has been successfully applied in training doctors and nurses to apply what they have learned to real life problems through a 9 stage process. This method will be transferred to companies where the individual learner will identify a problem in the organisation and apply the process to enable them to solve the problem within the organisation. The learner will be guided through the process with learning material, a tutor, a network of learners and real life case studies.

The learner will develop a range of skills in problem solving, management, communication and team work.

### Learning outcomes

The module aims to develop a motivated student which thinks critically and is self directed and proactive in terms of problem solving. The module has a number of objectives

- With peers and superiors apply the relevant criteria to select a problem suitable for problem based learning for problems faced by business professionals.
- Explain the roles of PBL and effectively collaborate with these.
- Complete each stage of the PBL process to address the identified PBL problem.



Funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

- Search for and identify the relevant knowledge to enable them to complete the PBL process for a problem faced by business professionals.
- Apply this knowledge to address the identified problem.
- Use the relevant scaffolds to assist the completion of the PBL process.
- Identify opportunities for the reapplication of the PBL process in their workplace
- Demonstrate management skills.
- Reflect on the effectiveness of their learning approach.

### Delivery

The module is being offered through Kemmy Business School in the University of Limerick. It will be delivered primarily online. Video lectures, text based material and slides will be made available through an PBL ICT platform. The platform will guide the learner through the PBL process and will be allow to record their findings at each stage. In addition, the learner can access case studies of similar solved problems as well as a peer group of learners.

The learner will attend a 2hour induction and registration on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> 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 selecting a problem for PBL, the PBL process and developing self motivated (self directed) learners.

- What is problem based learning
- Becoming a self directed learner in PBL
- Selecting a problem for PBL
- The roles in PBL and small group learning



- The PBL process
- Collaborating and completing the PBL process - Clarifying terms, Defining the problem, Brainstorming, Developing learning objectives, Self study and information literacy (how to find the information to solve your problem), Sythesising a solution, Reflecting on PBL and reapplying your learning
- Using scaffolds and supports

### Entry requirements

The learners will be required to hold a leaving cert qualification.

### Fees

The normal cost of running the module is €200 however 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

### How to apply

Please contact Dr. Emma O'Brien at [emma.obrien@ul.ie](mailto:emma.obrien@ul.ie) or 0861077414. Students will be required to register their interest before **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 5pm.**



Funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union