

Theme: Validation and working life

Presenter: Oran Doherty

Dr. Oran Doherty's workshop will describe how VPL is used in the hugely successful Apprenticeship in Retail Supervision programme in Ireland. This apprenticeship programme targets existing retail employees identified by their employer as future retail managers. Apprentices continue to work full time in retail and attend college 24 days per year for two years to achieve a level 6 qualification. With so few college days, the programme relies significantly on recognising learning that takes place in the workplace thus highlighting the importance of VPL. The workshop will commence by reviewing the key skills of the future and arguing that many of these skills are best acquired outside the traditional classroom setting. Oran will explain how the workplace becomes the key location for learning in the Apprenticeship in Retail Supervision programme as well as presenting some of the tools and techniques for facilitating VPL. In addition, this workshop will examine the prerequisites for ensuring successful VPL in work-based learning programmes.