

IT Training Package and the workplace context – how?

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The Information Technology Training Package has an obvious emphasis on assessment occurring in the workplace or in a simulated work environment. How do we deliver institutionalised training and meet this requirement? How will it differ from past practices? There is some hope of achieving this requirement if we are working with small student numbers and one qualification, but how do we handle the workplace context emphasis if we have enrolments in the hundreds or thousands across multiple qualifications?

Many units indicated in the Evidence Guide section of the IT Training Package state that “Assessment of this unit of competency will usually include observation of real or simulated work processes and procedures...”. At the Douglas Mawson Institute of TAFE, Information Technology Department, we investigated possible approaches, such as only taking on traineeships, requiring a Practice Firm component for all assessments, requiring an industry placement component for each award, changing assignments to case studies etc. This paper discusses the options considered and explains the approach finally taken with unexpected success.