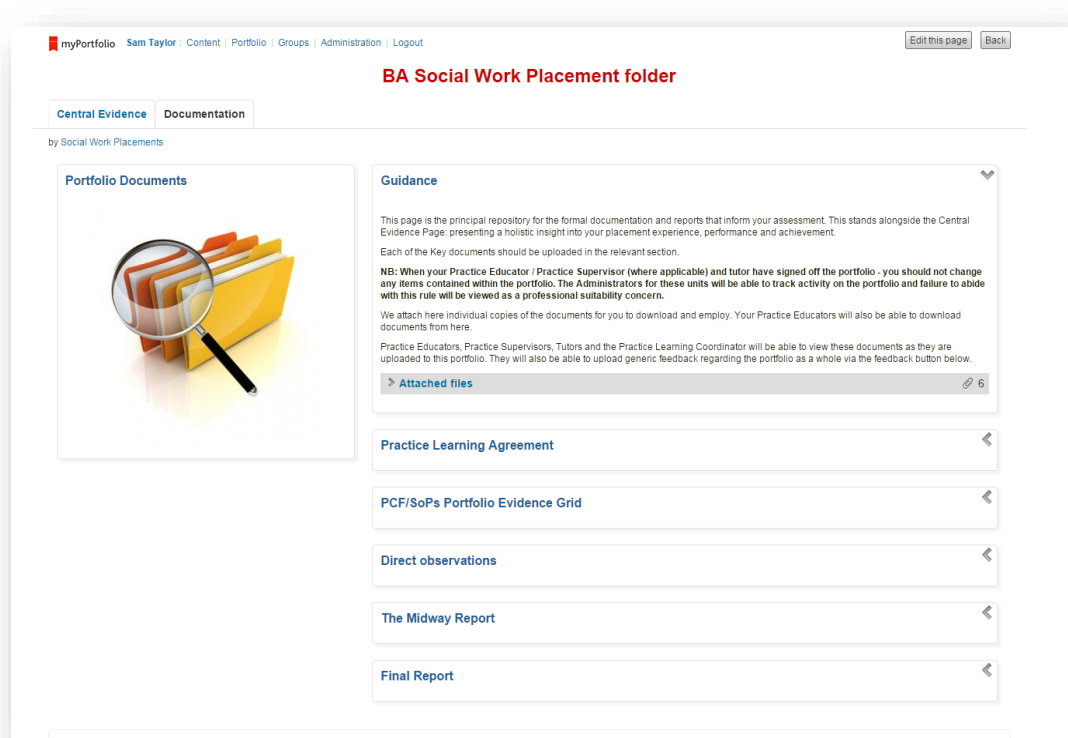# Digitising Social Work

Improving communication & access between students, lecturers, practice educators and supervisors

Issue:

Students are expected to meet regularly with their supervisors and Practice Educators (who are external professionals). Students are also expected to build a portfolio during their placement, which will be used to evidence their professional practice and to gain feedback.
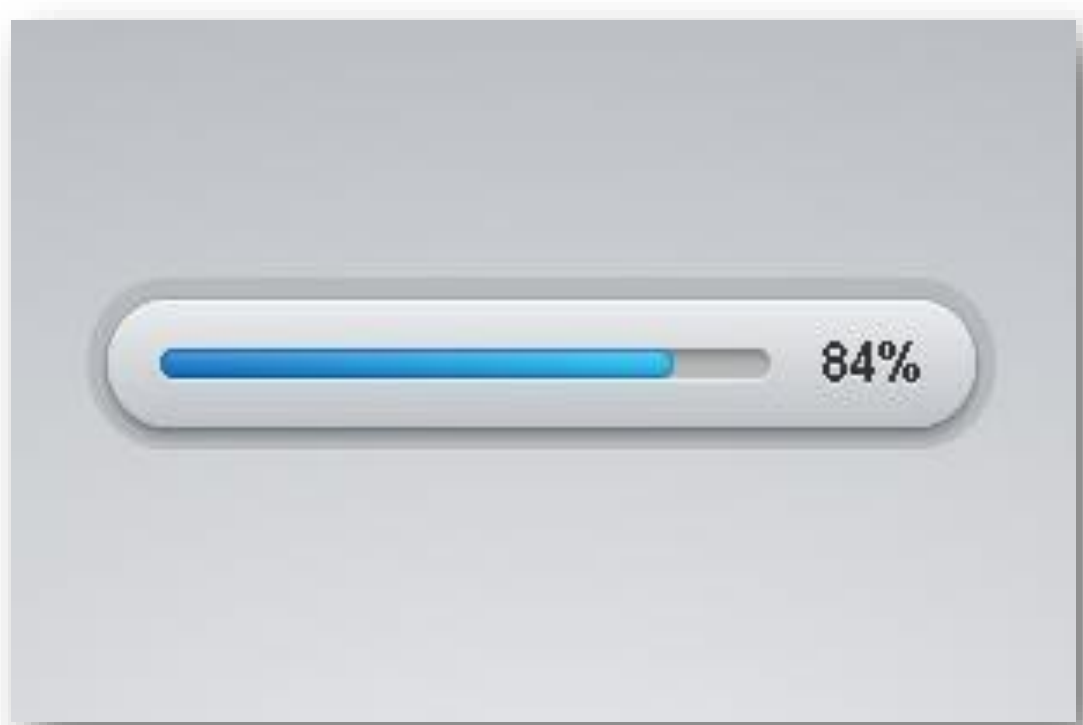
These portfolios can become rather large and trying to meet regularly with practice educators can pose challenges with stakeholders who are often in different locations.
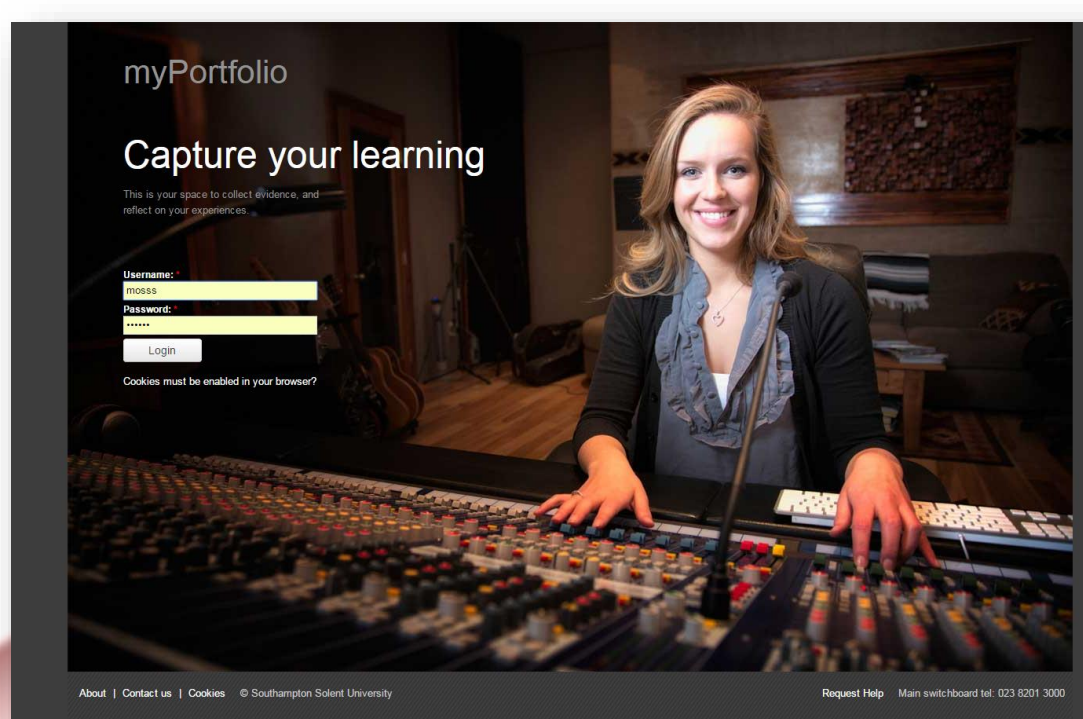

Solution:

Students will now build their portfolios using myPortfolio – SSU's ePortfolio system based on Mahara Software. This allows students to organise and share their work online with their lecturers, Practice Educators and supervisors from any internet enabled device, meaning all parties have 24hr access to the portfolio. Feedback can then be added to the portfolio whenever the professionals choose at the bottom of each page.

All electronic data is stored on servers based at SSU and is recoverable.

Progress to date:

➢ A template was constructed in a myPortfolio group for all students to download and attach their documents.
➢ Bespoke support materials (videos and screen grabs) were created and uploaded to myCourse
➢ All students have downloaded the template and have generated a link to their work to be sent to all who need access to it.
➢ All staff involved in supporting the students have been shown how to access their students' work and how to add their feedback.

Find out more:

This project is a collaboration between Colin Bright (Senior Lecturer, FBSE) and Sam Taylor (Learning Technologist, LIS). If you are interested in seeing how your students could benefit from using myPortfolio to support their learning and personal development, then contact Sam.Taylor@solent.ac.uk or go to http://myportfolio.solent.ac.uk/staff

Please note – myPortfolio is a multipurpose system that can support many different learning processes and activities.

"Social work placements are based in a wide variety of settings with diverse geographical locations – the adaption of E portfolio approaches is enabling design that we hope will enhance and support the communication exchange between practice and the university staff team. This in turn is intended to enhance the evidential potential of our students' work and support their learning."

Colin Bright - Senior Lecturer in Social Work

Southampton SOLENT University

Poster by Sam Taylor & Colin Bright