



## Badges in Digital Learning Experiences: Curtin University

*CASE STUDY: Curate, Credential and Carry Forward Digital Learning Evidence: [tiny.cc/cccdle](http://tiny.cc/cccdle)*

**Context:** Curtin University is using badges within the Careers and Leadership Challenge program and in 2015 will trial them within two additional MOOCs – The Business of Mining and Marketing. If experience with the MOOCs and other delivery pilots leads to widespread badging across other Curtin units then open badges will need to synchronize with Curtin University-issued badges that recognize student achievements and competencies. Curtin micro-credentials are being discussed as a way to ‘reflect a student’s journey through university’ and map out a student’s academic accomplishment, knowledge, skill, interest, personal and professional attributes, and key characteristics. The micro-credentials will be used to engage, inspire, and reward students and provide potential employers and learning analytic teams with an insight into the personal and professional characteristics of the learner as well as to increase Curtin’s knowledge of the learning experience.

### [1] What are we doing?

Curtin University is using pilots to develop the capacities needed for embedding open badges in MOOCs and other digital learning experiences with a focus on enhancing motivation for users, gathering learning analytics, and partnering with other education providers to establish course credits for Curtin students. It is envisioned that in the future open badges could be used to recognize prior learning across various platforms and attract international students to Curtin courses.

### [2] How are we doing it?

A team will develop the initial dialogue to create a structured framework that can be applied across all Curtin Online offerings to support learner motivation and achievement and create links to other higher education institutions. The Curtin team has close ties with the Mozilla Open Badges project; including co-authoring a paper on badges with Erin Knight. The team has also established a key partnership with Sheryl Grant from Badge Alliance. Curtin Teaching and Learning has integrated a completion badge into The Business of Mining MOOC. Module badges are awarded as users progress through the modules completing assessments and interactions as they go. Interactions unlock Scenarios where users are prompted to make a decision about their own gold mine. Curtin Business School will integrate an achievement badge into the Marketing MOOC. Curtin Teaching and Learning is working with the Head of School to establish course credit from MIT, Harvard and other EdX consortium members.

### [3] Who is involved?

Curtin Teaching and Learning is leading the effort and is involving leadership at all levels of the university.

### [4] Why are we doing it?

Curtin’s ‘Vision 2030’ for teaching and learning is to ‘provide richly interactive and personalised learning experiences for our students, equipping them with leadership skills for the future and valuing them as partners in education and research – and as long-term influencers of change within society.’ It is hoped that by introducing badging and micro-credentials Curtin provides learning support and analytics.

### [5] What are the challenges?

- Engaging faculty in new forms of recognition.
- Expanding understanding of assurance of learning into new contexts of the university’s outreach.
- Developing the business case for change.
- Involving leaders from finance, executive, research and teaching, and learning in a transformational conversation about the future.
- Ensuring badges are endorsed as official credit for recognized learning.

**Resources** [Campus policy framework for open badges](#); [The Business of Mining Registration Form](#) **Contacts** David Gibson ([david.c.gibson@curtin.edu.au](mailto:david.c.gibson@curtin.edu.au)), Kevin Sullivan ([kevin.sullivan@curtin.edu.au](mailto:kevin.sullivan@curtin.edu.au)), Jacqui Kelly ([jacqui.kelly@curtin.edu.au](mailto:jacqui.kelly@curtin.edu.au)), Kim Flintoff ([k.flintoff@curtin.edu.au](mailto:k.flintoff@curtin.edu.au)), Leah Irving ([l.irving@curtin.edu.au](mailto:l.irving@curtin.edu.au))



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