

## Digital Badging Policy Framework: Curtin University

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

**Context:** Globally, education service providers at all levels have been examining the role of credentialing and recognition of learning in formal and informal settings. Digital badging has emerged as an approach to credentialing that has gained currency across many sectors. The Mozilla organization has been integral in forming the Badge Alliance and Curtin staff have contributed to several areas of activity serving the Open Badging Initiative. Curtin has launched its first badges via the Careers and Leadership challenges. In the near future we can expect that badges will be awarded based on traces of a learner's progress, problem-solving attempts, self-expressions, and social communications. To address this scenario, Curtin University is developing capacities needed for implementing alternative 'micro-credentialing' of learning outcomes.

### [1] What are we doing?

Curtin University is developing a future-focused policy framework to identify the protocols and expectations of a badge-based credentialing system, and to mitigate risk, trust, and branding concerns.

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

Curtin has convened several meetings with internal stakeholders and aligned ourselves with external practitioners and researchers to foster both internal expertise and knowledge in the area and to draw upon emerging good practice to inform the development of a policy framework that addresses Curtin's priorities, strategic initiatives and existing Teaching and Learning ecosystem. Curtin staff have undertaken to participate in global action around the Open Badge Initiative to better understand the emerging landscape and to contribute our own perspectives into the global discussions. Curtin's own preliminary considerations of policy have formed the basis of the global articulation of a generic policy framework. Kim Flintoff and David Gibson have been significant co-authors on the Collaboratively Drafted Campus Policy Framework for Open Badges document from the Badge Alliance (October 2014); as well as several other frameworks (technical standards, trust) still under consideration. Kim is collaborating with an international team on drafting a Philosophy of Open Badges to frame some of the social implications for this new credentialing model.

### [3] Who is involved?

All areas of the university that impact on student

learning: marketing, recruitment, student life, curriculum, teaching, employer relations and alumni. Primary influencers have been the development team of Curtin Challenge and the specific authoring and deployment teams of challenges (Leadership, Careers, BoTP) on the platform.

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


Curtin's 'Vision 2030' is to 'provide richly interactive and personalised learning experiences for our students, equipping them with skills for the future and valuing them as partners in education and research – and as long-term influencers of change within society.' In order to adapt to the global shifts in recognising learning we are ensuring that Curtin is well-positioned to respond and apply the principles of unbundled and personalised learning pathways.

### [5] What are the challenges?

The imperative to adapt to emerging global trends can seem to be a process of chasing ghosts while there is an emerging body of knowledge and activity becoming more substantial by the day – to overlook this is to choose to watch others take the lead. Cynicism about global education trends is driven by fragmented insights into the scope and purpose of the developments.



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Currently, MOOCs are primary sites for badging models, yet the limited understanding of MOOCs is often translated into suspicion about the technologies and models they are spawning. The human, technical and political know-how has to be developed with an inclusive capacity- raising commitment. Each area of innovation (human, technical and political) is in its own right, a complex object of research, scholarship, risk-taking and reflection. The challenges cascade into sets of issues that will require shared vision and coordinated action, which in turn will require sustained commitment by the Executive and all other levels of the organisation.

**[6] Where is it heading?** Curtin Challenge is already using a badging system and it is evident that more contexts for their use will emerge. It is necessary to develop a clearly articulated policy framework and some operational protocols around future articulations of badges and other alternative forms of credential that are formally endorsed by Curtin.

#### Resources

[Campus policy framework for open badges](#)

**Contacts:** Kim Flintoff (k.flintoff@curtin.edu.au); David Gibson (david.c.gibson@curtin.edu.au); Kevin Sullivan (kevin.sullivan@curtin.edu.au)



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