

e-Professionalism (for educators)

Overview

E-Professionalism may be interpreted differently by staff, students and professional bodies. Therefore, the e-professionalism guide (for students), the hypothetical case study and the following guidance for educators are meant as a starting point for students and educators.

Students are encouraged to read the resources and use them to inform their own practice. Educators are encouraged to take the materials and adapt to suit their needs.

What is e-Professionalism?

E-Professionalism is the way you engage yourself online in relation to your profession, including your attitudes, actions and your adherence to relevant professional codes of conduct.

Developing a professional presence online requires (regular) reflection on the use of social media, the sites and language used and the (automatic) links between online accounts.

The Digital Footprint e-professionalism guide and hypothetical case study (“Joe”) are intended to be used in a range of ways:

- As a resource for students which may be included in course handbooks or within a Virtual Learning Environment, etc.
- As a tool within the context of professional skills training sessions delivered within your School/College. For example, the “Principles of e-professionalism” and the case study might form the basis of workshop discussions.

Important: The guide and case study **should be** contextualised in relation to specific disciplines and/or relevant professional bodies’ guidance on the use of social media. Links to some of these guidelines can be found on the Digital Footprint webpage (www.ed.ac.uk/iad/digitalfootprint).

Please be aware that it is not possible to include information on updating settings (e.g. privacy) in relation to *all* of the online spaces referred to within the case study. A quick browse of settings within an online space and/or a simple web search should provide information to update the settings for the most commonly used platforms.

Additional resources for educators can be found:

www.ed.ac.uk/iad/digitalfootprint (Resources for educators page)

- Checklist for creating an effective online presence
- Reflective activity sheet
- Social media guidelines for handbooks and VLE

Other Resources

- Internet safety <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk>
- University of Edinburgh Careers Service guidance on using social media <http://www.ed.ac.uk/careers/looking-for-work/social-media>
- Digital footprint consultancy service (via EDINA, edina@ed.ac.uk).

Contact Information

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