E-guidance: using audio feedback
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Evidence of benefits to students

• “Sounds Good”
  o 1200 students
  o 90% prefer audio to traditional feedback
  o ‘personal’ aspect particularly valued

• Similar results from other studies:
Advantages

• More and better feedback
• Less ambiguity
• Meaning beyond the words
• Empathy
Why did I consider it?

- Departmental work – flexibility
- English for Career Success
  - Timetabling issues
  - Room space problems
  - Focus on oral and listening skills
Recording

- Audio only: read through printed CV putting a note here and there as a prompt; recorded feedback
- Audio plus word document: annotated the word document and then recorded feedback sending both
- Screen capture: recorded both the screen and audio using Jing.
Delivering

• Virtual learning environment (VLE)
  – Moodle
• Email
• Hosted
How did I find it?

• Less ambiguity about the meaning of words; could emphasise points of importance
• More time spent on explaining a concept
• More time acknowledging the well written sections giving more balanced feedback
• Could say more than could have written in the equivalent time
What do the students think?

• I absolutely loved how this audio feedback works : =) This is great because now I can listen to it several times and make corrections accordingly.

• The audio recording was great ... good for people who cannot attend the career meetings in person.

• Received your audio files successfully and found them both to be particularly useful.

• Thank you very, very much for your great feedback, the effort and this course!
Drawbacks

• Finding quiet space to record feedback
• File sizes of the recordings can be a challenge
• “One setback might be that students cannot ask question, however, your critique was brief and clear, and I had no problem with that.”

• Issues raised by others:
  – archiving the audio within existing student records.
  – reviewing the feedback quickly prior to seeing a student could be problematic
Tips for audio feedback

- Simulate a one to one so don’t re-record if you stumble or pause; correct yourself and carry on
- Try to keep the files short – don’t overdo it
- Read CV etc, making written comments on it as you go
- Speak clearly – slightly slower than your usual speech.
- Build the feedback in chunks; use the pause button.
- Introduce yourself and say hello
- Suggest they open up the document before listening