



# Scientia Education Investment Fund Grants Final Report

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**A UNSW Micro-credentialing Ecosystem for Recognising Learning and Skills Attainment in Capstone Courses and Internships**

**Medicine**

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## 1. Executive Summary

- Professional skills are difficult to capture at degree program levels. Learning experiences that clearly link authentic assessment tasks to developing professional skills within coursework can overcome this issue. Cross-disciplinary standards-based assessment of professional skills were applied to authentic assessment tasks within degree programs across Business, Engineering, Medicine, Built Environment and Art and Design faculties at UNSW Sydney. The process of capturing, quantifying and recognising professional skills that underpin graduate attributes which can then be translated into institutional badges, hold value in future presentation for the purposes of employability or entry into post-graduate programs by students/graduates.
- The strong interest in microcredentialling was foundational to building a cross-disciplinary community of practice, **BadgeCop**. **BadgeCop** is composed of like-minded faculty members interested in applying a standards-based evaluation process using rubrics to capture professional skills development data across courses and degree programs at UNSW.
- Outcomes: Cross-disciplinary 'skills awareness and development capture' using rubrics was implemented and achieved in this project. As part of this data capture, the development of '**Credentialate**' was achieved in collaboration with the project industry partner, Edalex – press release 05 December 2019.
- Relevance: There is great scope to implement this mechanism for extracting data across any LMS platform for application as metadata that sits behind badges of skills recognition for future presentation to all types of stakeholders e.g. employers and post-graduate program authorities.
- Recommendations:
  - We are now poised to implement this system within UNSW undergraduate degree programs.
  - **BadgeCoP** members can now champion this system in each of their faculties.
  - Prof Polly will now start discussions with the DVCA, PVCE and IT to explore UNSW-wide implementation.

## 2. Outcomes and impact

- Reported February 2019: To date, we have successfully generated a core **BadgeCoP** of academics and professional staff/instructors presently across 5 faculties and 12 courses. **BadgeCoP** members convene and manage courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels that involve over 1400 students. Our micro-credentialing/visualisation of professional skills process is proceeding through the integration of standardised marking rubrics into courses. We have been able to export de-identified student data (marked rubrics) that is generated from these courses out of Moodle into the Edalex Mastery Platform and create 'pilot badges' which are visualised as motifs and metadata from rubrics.
- Reported February and August 2019: We have been able to extract and display de-identified student data from semester 1 2018 courses.
- Reported August 2019: The project is tracking to schedule with the first two of three milestones being met. However, we now require outcome 3 (see below) to be performed and delivered. There has been a budget reduction of 50% due to UNSW requiring funds to be returned. This re-shaped the scope of the project, so it's quite possible that this third outcome will not be delivered.

### Project outcome 3 and Impact

*Pilot how UNSW skills badges would be: a. issued within Moodle and b. be made visible as emerging skill sets and exportable to external platforms such as LinkedIn to raise student profiles and make graduates competitive for future employment.*

*The project has reached its financial end. However, Prof Polly is working with Edalex to finalised import/export capabilities of the signature skills microcredentials in undergraduate courses and programs in Moodle and LinkedIn*

UNSW-wide implementation has the capacity to include all courses and programs across UNSW, with the benefit of students explicitly demonstrating their 'signature skills' as microcredentialed attainment of professional skills that underpin graduate attributes.

'**Credentialate**' (see below for details) – and microcredentialing within undergraduate courses and programs has not yet been implemented beyond this SEIF project.

## **2. Dissemination strategies and outputs**

- SEA lecture 25 Jul 2019;
- ISSOTL poster presentation 9-14 Oct 2019;
- Press release by Edalex 05 Dec 2019 – '**Credentialate**' a new credentialing system that works with rubrics, LMS's and Badgr
- The Edalex Mastery Platform which has now been launched as '**Credentialate**', was co-designed by Prof Polly and Edalex as a component of this SEIF grant.

## **3. Evaluation of project outcomes**

The project was evaluated in an ongoing way. As this project was highly technical-so many parameters needed cross-checked along the way (and since reporting in August 2019). IT support was provided by Edalex and feedback provided by Prof Polly and **BadgeCop** was progressively implemented. **Credentialate** now requires implementation at UNSW. Prof Polly will start discussions with the DVCA, PVE and IT to explore UNSW-wide implementation.