

Gør tanke til handling
VIA University College



Dialogue between Researcher and Practitioner - VINCE Final Symposium

Validation of prior learning process at VIA University College

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Validation of prior learning process at VIA

- VIA University College is one of Denmark's largest institutions of Higher Education. One of 6 Profession Highschools in Denmark. There are approximately 20000 annual students at VIA UC.
- VIA has several VPL teams. Every team has responsibility for one or more educational programs. VIA prepares common framework conditions and descriptions, but each team has a lot of autonomy
- To secure the rights of the applicant and to seek objectivity of the validation, we are always two validators on each task.
- All assessors are also counselors, and most of them have a master's degree in Guidance.

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The VPL Process divided into four steps

1. The applicant sends in an application form, which includes a description of previously obtained qualifications such as educational diplomas, professionally relevant courses, and work experiences. It also contains a motivated application.
2. The recognition process begins by reading the application, and the first deselection and categorization take place.
3. The VPL interview takes place.
4. The final assessment takes place. Approximately 40% gets approval and, therefore, a positive validation of prior learning.

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Changing the procedure

- The Interview is based on an academic article with significant professional relevance
- **The case story**
- Investigation shows that preceding procedures focusing on interviews based on professional academic articles followed by a professional argumentation, favor ethnic applicants.



Model photo

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Narratives as a way to recognition of competence

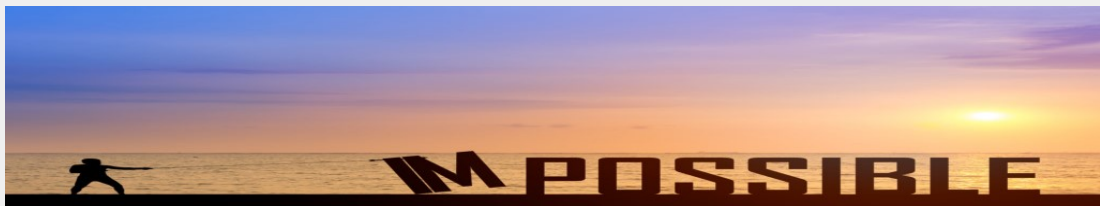
- The importance of bringing narrative into the VPL process
- The use of pictures as a starting point for every VPL interview
- A photograph always holds more than the individual immediately can see; it is not possible to exhaust a photo for meaning during a VPL conversation. Any picture will leave blank spaces in the image that the viewer will fill in
- The applicant is both the author and the editor of the story, and can relate to the story and the topics it produces
- the images provide a common ground between applicant and assessor

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The important factors

- three particular factors have identified themselves as important for whether an applicant can later complete a higher education, namely: robustness, persistence, and problem-solving ability
- Applicants manage to form transfers between very diverse arenas.



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Model photo