

Topic 7. Bringing it all Together – The PDP



By now, if you have been diligent about completing all the tasks for each topic, you should have quite a bundle of papers in front of you, or saved on your USB.

You have thought about the route you have taken to get to Rose Bruford College, what you are already good at and areas that need developing; you have an understanding of your learning style that will help you plan strategies to deal with developing your key generic skills and industry specific skills; and you should have a clearer idea about your future goals – both career and professional goals and your personal goals. As we suggested in Topic 1, these may change over time but remember: we're not trying to predict the future, just plan for it.

The final task is to bring all this thinking together in your **Personal Development Plan**. As you complete tasks 8-10 (the three tasks that will create your final PDP document), remember to think **SMART**. Some of you may have come across this acronym before, but it was developed to help people set and achieve their goals; so any goal you set yourself should be:

- **Specific**: The more specific and focussed a goal, the more likely you are to achieve it.
- **Measurable**: How will you know when you have achieved your goal?
- **Attainable**: How realistic is this goal? If you set the barrier too high you could be disappointed and disheartened.
- **Relevant**: Is this goal actually going to get you anywhere?
- **Time-constrained**: If you don't set yourself a time limit for reaching your goal you may never feel motivated to achieve it.

As you complete each of the following tasks, review the previous tasks. These will give you a pretty good picture of your goals in terms of your academic and key generic skills, your career and your life in general. Think about the smaller steps you need to take to achieve each goal and who can help you. And don't forget to suggest a completion date so that when you come to review your PDP (and you should do this at least once a year), you will be able to measure your progress.

Once you have completed the tasks remember to print off your PDP so that you can discuss this in your PDP tutorial.

The final topic in this course offers some advice and links to help you develop your skills in areas such as time management, keeping logs and journals and some thoughts about how you can review and evaluate your practical projects.

Remember this is a resource you can come back to again and again. As you go through your three years of study, other resources will be created to help you plan for your future careers. I recommend you visit regularly.