

Sample interview questions - Self-directed Community Learning

This is a small sample of questions. Assessors are expected to ask many more contextual questions to elicit the learning effectively.

Knowledge and Application

Opening questions:

- Can you tell us about what you have been doing in your community activity?
- What new things did you do that you haven't done before?

Experience

- Did any problems or challenges arise? If so, what were they and how did you deal with them?
- How long have you been doing this?
- Why did you get involved in the activity?
- What sort of time commitment do you make to this activity?
- How did you organise and manage what you were going to do when?

What the student says about learning

- Can you describe how you learnt these sorts of things?
- Did you have any particular goals in mind when you started? If so, what were they?

Questions about breadth and depth of learning

- What sorts of things did this mean that you could do or had to do you?
- What sorts of responsibilities did you have?
- Did you have to have any special knowledge or training so that you could participate?
- What sorts of health and safety rules or issues were there?

Questions about applying learning

- In what ways did you work with other people in the community activity? Were there any difficulties with others? If so, how did you manage them?
- What are some examples of how you have used this new learning?
- How would you go about showing others about what you have learned?

Guiding questions to assist the assessment judgments after the interview

The student is able to convey a sense of the nature and purpose of the activities in a particular self-directed learning activity, and to show how his or her understanding enabled him or her to participate.

How well does the student demonstrate understanding of the key concepts and processes in the self-directed learning activity?

How well does the student apply understanding of concepts and processes in order to participate?

Reflection and Critical Thinking

Questions about the student's self-perception

- What have you learned about yourself through your community activity?
- How did you react to any advice or criticism provided by others?
- Why is this important to you?

Questions about the student's reflection – thinking about own learning

- How has what you have been doing made a difference to your life?
- Which skills have you developed as a result of your (employment/activity)?
- Did things go according to plan? If not, please explain.
- Could or should you have done some things differently?
- What sorts of things would show that you have succeeded in what you set out to achieve?
- What were some of the more difficult things that you had to do?
- Has the things you have learned been useful elsewhere in your life?
- Can you give us some examples of things that went well and things that did not go well?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of being in (this activity/part-time employment)?
- Are there better ways of learning than how you did it?

Questions about the student's reflection – thinking about interacting with others

- What have you learned about others through your community activity?
- Did you help others learn? If so, who and how?
- What were some of the challenges you faced when working with others?
- What advice would you give to someone your age who is considering (the activity/part-time employment)?
- Do your efforts (and others) make a difference in the community?
- If you could change the way things were done, what would you do?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of working in a team or group?
- Who benefits from your employment? How?
- What sorts of health and safety issues were important?

Guiding questions to assist the assessment judgments after the interview

The student provides evidence of learning how to be an effective participant, and demonstrates understanding of connections between the self-directed learning activity and support for people in the wider community.

How well does the student provide evidence of learning how to be an effective participant?

How well does the student demonstrate understanding of why participating in the self-directed learning activity is important for the community?