

Activity ➔ 9

Making the right learning choices

STUDENT HANDOUT

Imagine that you have applied for a job as a student guidance worker. As part of your job interview you have been asked to role play a guidance session in which you help your client to make the right learning choices. You will not be affiliated to, or work for, any particular institution, so you can offer advice about any local, national and/or international educational provision that may be of interest to your client.

You are very keen to get this job so you want to do well in the role play. Make sure that you prepare thoroughly for the guidance session and carry out the necessary research. This could involve finding out about local, national and international education provision and knowing about costs, accommodation, travel and childcare, for example. You will also need to think about how to ask questions, probe for more information and listen to answers carefully so that you can offer useful and appropriate advice to your client.

When we next meet you will be divided into pairs to undertake the role play. Fifteen minutes will be allocated for the first session in which one student will be the guidance worker and the other the client. After 15 minutes the roles will be reversed so that both students have the chance to play guidance worker and client. Ensure that you are polite and courteous and that you treat your partner with respect, listening carefully to what is said.

When you are playing the role of client you can decide whether to play yourself or whether to make up a role. Some students have made up their mind about what, where, when and how to study so need to make up a role to have a constructive guidance interview. Others, however, find it a useful experience to discuss their learning options and possible choices with a 'guidance worker' during the role play.

Learning outcome: By the end of this activity you will have a deeper understanding of the issues involved in making the right learning choices and will be able to apply this understanding to your own choices, where relevant.