



Issue 13 – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016

The following items have been discussed at the most recent SPEP Meeting:

## **SPEP is changing!**

The format of SPEP is changing! The newsletter will continue but it has been agreed that formal minutes will no longer be recorded; instead action points will be noted and then circulated to SPEP members. Agenda items will not be requested before the meeting but there will continue to be set headings / themes where items and topics can be raised for discussion.

The SPEP circulation list includes a range of staff from within the Faculty. Attendance to meetings is not compulsory but all members of the circulation list are welcome to attend.

## **Introduction**

The Science Placement and Employability Panel consists of Academic and Support Staff representatives who meet regularly to discuss placement and employability matters arising within the Faculty. The SPEP Newsletter has been devised to report back the matters discussed and keep all Faculty of Science staff up to date.

## Advertising Placement Opportunities

Discussions took place around the advertising and sharing of placement opportunities with current students. Currently placement opportunities are forwarded to Module Leaders or Placement Co-ordinators to share on Blackboard. University guidance encourages the use of the My Jobs & Placement website, but particularly for curricular placements this is not always possible. The group felt that further clarity was needed regarding the University's policy on advertising placements to students, particularly in relation to unpaid opportunities.

## PBS Employer Events

As reported in the last SPEP newsletter, Katie Evans was trying to organise a PBS employer event in conjunction with the WOWCC for September 2016. The aim of the event was to gain more employer contacts with a view to sourcing summer placements, sandwich year placements and graduate opportunities. Unfortunately, the event did not go ahead as only 3 employers expressed an interest in taking part.

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016, the Faculty held a Pharmacy Employer Forum chaired by Dr Shaqil Chaudary. Representatives from LJMU and external partners met to discuss LJMU's MPharm degree programme. This provided an opportunity for employers to share their experience, thoughts and opinions regarding Pharmacy graduates. The feedback from the event was very positive, particularly in regards to the informal element of the meeting which allowed people to enter complex discussions and communicate in an open and casual manner.

The panel discussed how the Forum could be mirrored within Biomolecular Sciences in order to engage with existing employers and the potential new employers identified by WOWCC.

## Career Planning Guides

Craig Wilding shared positive feedback that he received about the Career Planning Guides at the recent Open Day on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016. He received positive feedback from potential students and parents / guardians.

## Employer Celebration Event

Becky Murphy expressed an interest in hosting an end of year celebration event to thank current employers / placement providers for their support throughout the academic year. The event could also be used to promote the Faculty / School to potential employers / placement providers. The University has strong partnerships with local venues which could prove to be ideal for the event. A meal could be provided followed by an awards ceremony with awards distributed to employers / placement providers, students and LJMU staff. Bespoke events could be hosted for individual Schools', with the potential for a Faculty wide event too. Involvement with awards such as Rate My Placement and student employer of the year were also mentioned.

It was suggested that developing an employer celebration event could become a project for SPEP to focus on going forward. Representatives from each School will discuss the event with their School Directors to establish whether there is an interest in developing the event and supporting resources.

## Contact Information

**Author:** Sarah Dutton (Secretary Science Placements and Employability Panel)

Tel: 0151 231 2079

Email: [S.E.Dutton@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:S.E.Dutton@ljmu.ac.uk)

**Chair:** Phil Denton

Tel: 0151 231 2035

Email: [P.Denton@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:P.Denton@ljmu.ac.uk)

### School Representatives:

**SPS:** Dr Becky Murphy

Tel: 0151 904 6255 Email: [R.C.Murphy@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:R.C.Murphy@ljmu.ac.uk)

**NSP:** Dr Sarah Dalrymple

Tel: 0151 231 2354 Email: [S.E.Dalrymple@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:S.E.Dalrymple@ljmu.ac.uk)

**PBS:** Dr Katie Evans / Mrs Patricia Barry

Tel: 0151 231 2334 / 2090 Email: [K.Evans@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:K.Evans@ljmu.ac.uk) / [P.Barry@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:P.Barry@ljmu.ac.uk)

Should you have any information you wish to feed back to the Science Placements and Employability Panel, good practice you would like to share or any input with regard to the items mentioned above please contact your School Representative or Sarah Dutton.

Date of the next Science Placements and Employability Group Meeting: **TBC**