



Issue 26 – Tuesday 10th December 2019

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

Skills and Taught Content

Chris Finn (Director, Student Advancement) shared the draft Student Employability, Enterprise & Employability Strategy, 2019-23 at the previous Faculty Education Committee meeting.

One of the themes of the strategy was levelling the playing field for our students. This was in relation to students who have no previous history of family members attending university. Another aspect of the strategy is to provide all students with a work-based learning experience. It was explained this does not necessarily mean an individual placement for all students but that each student should experience a work-related activity whilst completing their studies, including the undertaking of employer-inspired projects.

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.

Careers Advice and Employer Engagement

The recent 'Careers and Employer Exhibition: Exploring Careers in Sport and Graduate Programmes' and 'Pharmacy Pre-Registration Employer Event' were well attended with 82 and 62 students attending respectively.

The upcoming 'Careers in the Cosmetic Science' event, which will take place on Wednesday 22nd January, was originally linked to the MSc Cosmetic Science programme, however, it is now open to all SCS students.

Psychology events are still listed as the Faculty of Science continues to support in these areas.

Careers guides are now available to collect from the Byrom Street Careers Zone. The Careers team can be contacted with any examples for case studies to be used in future guides. The new SPS careers guides include programmes transferring from IM Marsh. Laura Aldridge has worked closely with Becky Murphy to increase the number of female student case studies so that there is now a 50/50 split.

The Wildlife Conservation event held last year was poorly attended. Hayley Fallon is exploring ideas to improve attendance this year, including moving the event to an afternoon timeslot and introducing smaller, bite-size talks in semester two.

Laura has created the Scientific Graduate Schemes mini-guide, which provides an overview of scientific employers who are offering important graduate scheme job opportunities. It is available to download from the Careers website (<https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/careers/online-guides-and-resources>).

A new rota has been introduced for Employability Advisors, which has increased appointment availability for students.

Reminders will be sent to students to book in for mock interview preparation ahead of their Oriel assessment centre days. It was noted that some students are only being given three days notice prior to their assessment centre date and time.

Unitemps is up and running in the Byrom Street Careers Zone. Marnie Blackman-Cook has been appointed as Branch Manager.

It was suggested that Careers events and fairs could be included within scheduled teaching. This would allow events to be booked earlier (before Week 1) and they would then be incorporated into students' personalised timetables.

There has been an increase in Forensic Anthropology students enquiring about placements in the police. However, the opportunities are not suitable as they are tailored to Forensic Science students. It was noted that the relationship with Merseyside Police has been developed from a PBS perspective. Danielle Anderson (PLSU) highlighted that lab-based placements could be available to Forensic Anthropology students but are not always advertised directly to them.

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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 Hollie Christian.

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