



Issue 22 – Monday 17th December 2018

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

PBS/NSP Employability Away Days

The PBS Away Day took place on 11th December 2018, with NSP scheduled for 10th January 2019.

Feedback from the PBS day included:

- 'Employability by stealth' – combining employability alongside academic teaching sessions had proved beneficial in some areas.
- Some staff felt poorly informed. This could be addressed partly through the Faculty LTA website and the Abstract newsletter.
- The role of the Employability Champions is unclear. One programme decided that all staff should act as Employability Champions.
- Careers and PLSU are not distinct enough which can cause confusion amongst the students.

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 might expect an increase in students requiring CV checks from next year given the Faculty's focus on this activity. PLSU will continue to provide CV checks from a placement perspective.

Good Practice

Collaborative work between PLSU and academics to encourage students to engage in placements has seen an increase in student appointments.

PBS tutorial handbooks are currently being drafted with PLSU confirming they would like input in relation to early intervention.

Samantha Forde is working with Pharmacy and the Occupational Health Unit to streamline paperwork with a view of moving to a more electronic based system. It is hoped this will be in place by the end of February.

Placements

Following an intense recruitment process, a Pharmaceutical Science student has been successful in securing a sandwich year placement with GSK. This is the first time in seven years that an LJMU Faculty of Science student has secured a placement with GSK.

A second student has secured a sandwich year placement with Allergan which is due to commence in September 2019.

In some instances, students may need to change their placement following employer dismissal procedures. In this case, the University Placement Tutor (UPT) should inform PLSU who will in turn inform Aly Leigh. The student must take a leave of absence if they are dismissed and a substantial amount of the academic year has already elapsed. On previous occasions, the employer has informed the Tutor prior to the dismissal in order to intervene, e.g. personal circumstances. There is also support available from the University for all students via Student Advice and Wellbeing Services.

PLSU cannot administer paperwork support for a PBS WBL placement if it is not attached to a module as there is no transfer of liability. Ideas discussed to resolve this included a 20 credit module to be used as an additional/optional alternative. Another possibility could be a 10 credit module as this would not be detrimental to core modules but offers students academic reward.

Careers Centre Updates

The "Exploring Graduate Opportunities and Careers in Sport" event in November was well received with good attendance.

New internships are available and advertised on the Careers Zone 24/7 job opportunities page.

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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 David Wood.

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