



Issue 23 – Tuesday 26th March 2019

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

DBS

Recently, there has been increased scrutiny from Atlantic Data when adding new job roles to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) system.

LJMU need to ensure that a DBS check is necessary and meets the requirements outlined by Atlantic Data. DBS checks requested by placement organisations are not always required and administering checks has financial implications for the Faculty.

Level 5 Psychology students who opt for the placement module are required to complete a minimum ten-hour work placement/shadow. Previously, placement organisations have requested DBS checks for students where a self-declaration form may suffice. The PLSU will explore options with placement organisations for the coming academic year.

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.

Good Practice

The MSc Biomedical Science Employers Forum took place on Friday 15th March. It is a new course which is expected to be validated this year and will be available for students to enrol on in the 2020/21 academic year. It proved a successful event in gaining the skills needs of students from employers' perspective.

Employers who attended have now agreed to attend a Careers event in April, with some also signing up to guest lecture.

Deborah Pownall has introduced various LJMU staff to Unilever contacts with more connections planned once projects are finalised. Unilever opportunities will be sent to staff who can then inform students. Initial opportunities will be paid internships by LJMU but could potentially be company funded in the future.

Colette Ashbrook has launched the Careers Team Career Coaching Pilot. During tutorials, staff can refer students for a one-to-one Careers appointment.

Placements

BSc Forensic Science students who are currently completing sandwich-year placements with Merseyside Police are reducing their placement hours due to financial reasons. Similar situations have occurred in previous years and Deborah Pownall is planning to meet with Merseyside Police to discuss paying students.

This has raised questions regarding whether the students will still meet the placement criteria. As the University does not formally track placement hours, a meeting will be arranged to discuss options for how to implement this in placement modules.

The Faculty of Science currently does not require sandwich-year students to visit the University whilst out on placement. Other Faculties ask students to attend University during Directed Study Week in February. However, it was noted that this would be difficult for students who are on overseas placements.

Students can only start sandwich-year placements from 1st August each academic year.

Careers Centre Updates

Laura Aldridge provided an update on Careers Events. Laura stated that optional events were very well attended and would be worthwhile to run again next year.

'Get That Job Day – Science, Technology, Engineering, Construction and Maths', will take place on Tuesday 9th April, 11am-2pm, Byrom Street G05/07/09. Laura will email reminders to students, with details also being broadcast on screens and monitors on campus.

The LJMU Careers Team blog (<https://ljmucareerszones.wordpress.com/>) is a useful source of information

for staff and students. It provides details of upcoming events, follow-up posts after events, opportunities and hints and tips for students.

Graduate Outcomes Survey – the first survey of graduates took place in December 2018, with the first data expected to be published in spring 2020.

Contact Information

Author: David Wood (Secretary, Science Placements and Employability Panel)

Tel: 0151 231 2079

Email: D.J.Wood@ljmu.ac.uk

Chair: Phil Denton

Tel: 0151 231 2035

Email: P.Denton@ljmu.ac.uk

School Representatives:

SPS: Dr Becky Murphy

Tel: 0151 904 6255 **Email:** R.C.Murphy@ljmu.ac.uk

NSP: Dr Torsten Wronski / Dr Carlo Meloro

Tel: 0151 231 2563 / 2312 **Email:** T.Wronski@ljmu.ac.uk / C.Meloro@ljmu.ac.uk

PBS: Dr Andrew Powell / Dr Kate Phillips

Tel: 0151 231 2487 / 2430 **Email:** A.Powell@ljmu.ac.uk / K.L.Phillips@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 David Wood.

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