



Issue 12 – Monday 23rd
May 2016

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.

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

Update on Curriculum Enhancement Internship Project

The Faculty have successfully secured funding through the Curriculum Enhancement Internship Project for the development of an online pre-placement module. The module will sit within a community site on Blackboard and will be available to all students within the Faculty. It will be interactive and prepare students for placements through a test based on the LJMU Placement Learning Code of Practice.

Two interns are required for the project; a Database Developer and Research Officer. Interviews for the 2 positions took place on Tuesday 17th May 2016 and 2 interns were successfully recruited.

Thanks to Steven Hawkins from the NSP/SES School Office for help in recruiting the Database Developer and for his ongoing help with the Placement Learning Support Unit's (PLSU) database.

Thanks also to Jamie Fearn and Zoe Knowles for assisting Phil Denton with shortlisting and interviewing applicants.

Student Feedback on Health & Safety: Appendix 4

Appendix 4 is part of the Placement Learning Code of Practice (PLCoP) and provides feedback from the students on health and safety arrangements during their placement. The document is proving to be problematic as students are misunderstanding some of the sections on the form and a large number are not fully completing it. The Placement Learning Support Unit (PLSU) receives a high volume of completed Appendix 4 documents and reporting back on all of the irregularities on an individual basis is proving to be very time consuming.

To become more time efficient, the PLSU will now be collecting and collating information from the completed Appendix 4 documents and then relaying it onto academic staff after an agreed cut-off date. A full report will be sent to module leaders / academic placement coordinators.

Developing resources for both students and staff to aid the Appendix 4 process has been welcomed. The Curriculum Enhancement Internship Project will look to develop a resource to integrate the Appendix 4 into the Blackboard pre-placement online module. The PLSU will develop a staff resource that will support the Appendix 4.

Placement Learning Code of Practice (PLCoP) paperwork

Last year a number of changes to the PLCoP paperwork were suggested by the PLSU but were not adopted. The PLSU are eager to explore whether there is more flexibility for amendments this year. Discussions took place in regards to the PLCoP paperwork at the University Education Committee (UEC) meeting in April. The PLSU will be reviewing the minutes from the UEC meeting to see whether any changes were approved that can be adopted by the Faculty.

LJMU Career Accelerator Internship Programme

The LJMU Career Accelerator Internship Programme was discussed as a number of concerns were raised relating to the Natural Sciences Work Based Learning placements. It was agreed that there could be more alignment between the work of the Faculty and WOWCC. It was discussed that it may be more beneficial for the LJMU Career Accelerator Internship Programme to be used as a way to create new providers and opportunities. Unfortunately, there were no WOWCC representatives at the meeting but Phil Denton will be contacting WOWCC regarding the discussions that took place.

Good Practice

Pat Barry has recently visited a placement student on the Isle of Man. The visit proved to be a very interesting and beneficial experience. The relationship between the student and nominated training officer was very good and this also came across in the portfolio.

PBS Employer Event

Katie Evans is currently organising a PBS employer event in conjunction with the WOWCC, which

will take place at Kingsway House in September 2016. The event will feature talks from current placement providers and will aim to gain more employer contacts with a view to sourcing summer placements, sandwich year placements and graduate opportunities.

Academic staff as placement providers

Within NSP discussions have taken place with regards to an additional workload allocation for supporting Work Based Learning (WBL) and Professional Training (PT) placements where students are recruited internally to work as research assistants. Phil Denton is going to investigate additional workload allocation for academic staff acting as placement providers for WBL and PT students.

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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 Sarah Dutton.

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