



Issue 25 – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019

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

## Operational

### DBS

DBS requirements for major projects and PGR programmes have been discussed and it is unclear if a DBS check should be completed before or after ethics is approved.

The DBS process can be started quickly by PLSU but it is then the students' responsibility to action the application.

PLSU may explore creating a factsheet that can be sent to students to explain the process. It was suggested that this information could also be included in the module guide.

### Erasmus Funding

It was reported that Erasmus funding has been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021. As a result of Brexit, it is unclear how the funding

## 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.

process will work after this date.

### **School Lead for Employability – Role Descriptor**

A role descriptor for School Lead for Employability was shared with attendees. The post is currently out for consultation. One post will be available in each School and the role will act as an advisory to SMT. The aim is for successful candidates to be in post by December and will be invited to future SPEP meetings.

## **Careers Advice and Employer Engagement**

Deborah Pownall shared a list of employers that will be attending the 'Exploring Careers in Sport and Graduate Opportunities' event, which will be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November, 9:30am-12pm at the Marriott Hotel. Eighteen employers have confirmed and Deborah is hopeful that more will confirm. The event is not limited to SPS students.

Deborah is in discussion with Knowsley Safari Park in regards to paid opportunities. They will offer opportunities in the summer.

Unitemps was launched earlier this year. It is an on-campus recruitment agency, through which students and recent graduates will be able to access flexible employment opportunities both within LJMU and, in time, working with external clients across the Liverpool City Region.

## **Skills and Taught Content**

Module Leaders are trying to increase Natural Sciences Sandwich placement numbers. Danielle Anderson and Nicola Smith (PLSU) recently attended the ASET conference and found that the drop in Natural Sciences placements seems to be a nationwide issue. PLSU will be speaking with L4 and L5 students to motivate them to apply for sandwich opportunities.

Two thirds of students from the Biomolecular Science degree programmes put their name down for sandwich placements but only 10 of those students booked an appointment with PLSU. Issues seem to arise from students' preference to stay closer to home.

Summer placements seem a lot more appealing to students, however, the PBS module is not currently being utilised. It is possible that the Internship programme could be used for students to complete their placement hours whilst also being paid.

It was suggested that the work-based learning module could be utilised in the future and that we could offer students more options surrounding placements to make the most of their transferable skills. A Forensic Science student is out on sandwich placement in China and is currently teaching. This is not necessarily linked to the degree but is still eligible for the module.

In regards to a recent placement opportunity, an overseas organisation does not have the UK equivalent or other insurance in place to cover students. This can occur with placements that are outside the UK. Clarification was sought in regards to Appendix 1 approval. Attendees were informed that all medium and high-risk placements are subject to the Programme Leader's and School Director's approval respectively. PLSU can support in gathering the information that can be fed into the Appendix 1 to ensure that an informed decision can be made. It was reiterated that the Placement Learning Code of Practice is not there to prevent students from going out on placement but to evidence that due diligence has been completed.

## Contact Information

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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**