



Issue 6 - Wednesday  
26th November 2014

# Science Placements and Employability Group Newsletter



The Science Placement and Employability Group consists of Academic and Support Staff representatives who meet regularly to discuss Placement and Employability matters arising within the Faculty. The SPEG 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 SPEG Meeting:**

### **Career Planning Guides**

Hard copy Career Guides for each School have been distributed around the University and are now available to collect locally from the Faculty of Science Skills Support Unit, Room 144 James Parsons Building. Electronic copies are also available on the World of Work Careers Centre website

<http://www.ljmu.ac.uk/worldofwork/123871.htm>

### **Recognised Good Practice within the Faculty of Science**

The Faculty of Science Skills Support Unit and Monica Barclay delivered a compulsory Pre Placement Process and Health and Safety session for all Undergraduate Level 6 SPS students, as part of their 'Applied Placement' module. The aim of the session was to inform students of what is required of them

before they go out on placement, in line with the new Code of Practice and the Health and Safety at Work Act. Praise for the session was received from the School.

SPS Staff are currently looking at potentially developing an online module for next year.

### **DBS**

It has been noted recently that some of the SPS students have been applying for the hardship funds in order to pay for the £11 identity checking fee at the Post Office for their DBS application. Post-fee regulations are being checked to determine if the course should be funding DBS ID verification costs.

The Faculty of Education, Health and Community held a DBS review meeting on Friday 17th October with representatives from SCS in attendance. Outcome yet to be reported – watch this space!

## World of Work Career Centre Updates

Past and Current Events supported by the World of Work Careers Centre this academic year, 2014/15:

Psychology in Application II Placement Fair	Wednesday 5th November
Employer Event for Natural Science Students	Wednesday 19th November
Careers in Physiotherapy and Nutrition	Wednesday 26th November
Pursuing a career in Clinical Psychology	Wednesday 3rd December
Pre-reg Pharmacy Employer Event	Wednesday 11th February 2015
Working in Forensics	Wednesday 11th March 2015

## Placements

The limited staff resources to support placement administration is impacting the number of PBS students currently out on placement. The School of Sport and Exercise Science reported that they would not be able to deliver their placement module without the support from the Faculty of Science Skills Support Unit. Feedback from students also supports this and the team's support has positive comments through the NSS. The Faculty are currently auditing the impact of the Code of Practice on staff resources and will feedback.

Amongst PBS students returning from their yearlong placement, it appears some are struggling to integrate back into the new cohort. Ongoing discussions with the School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences are taking place to find ways in which these students can be supported.

## Faculty of Science Skills Support Unit

It appears students continue to struggle differentiating the Faculty's World of Work and Skills Support Unit, from the World of Work Careers Centre and often end up handing up paperwork into Kingsway House and turning up for Employability Events at Byrom Street. Feedback from students and staff suggest that the World of Work and Skills Support Unit title does not reflect the support the Unit offers to students. This concern has been raised within the Faculty.

## Extra-Curricular activities offered by the Faculty

The Faculty of Science Skills Support Unit are currently investigating the extra-curricular activities that take place within the Faculty in order to support the development of recognition of achievement for students through the HEAR (Higher Education Achievement Report).

## Contact Information

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Should you have any information you wish to feed back to the Faculty of Science Brokerage Group, good practice you would like to share or any input with regards to the items mentioned above please contact your School Representative or Katie Lawrence.

Date of the next Faculty of Science Brokerage Meeting: **Tuesday 9th December 2014**

All comments to be sent to your School Representative/ Secretary by: **Tuesday 2nd December 2014**