

Summer 2015 Review Newsletter | Humanities

Mission Employable

Knowing, growing and showing the skills for career success.

As the summer projects end for another year, we are finalising our inductions plans and looking forward to our 2015/16 activity.

With a range of fully developed and well-supported initiatives in place and a plan established to continue and further progress throughout the new academic year, the future looks bright for Mission Employable and for employability within the Faculty as a whole.

In this issue, our student team reflects on their summer internships and how they have personally developed through working with Mission Employable.

A word from Dr Eleanor Quince, Faculty Director of Employability | page 2

Humanities' Enterprise Progress | page 3

The Employability Modules | page 3

Peer Mentoring Scheme update | page 4

The REALIE Project: Student Contributors | page 5

How Mission Employable will move forward in 2015/16 | page 5

A word from the Director of Employability

By Dr Eleanor Quince: E.M.Quince@soton.ac.uk

When we launched Mission Employable last September, my hope was that some of our students would embrace the opportunity to take control of their career options. Now, one year later, the sheer enthusiasm, commitment and creativity of our Faculty Student Community has seen our activity surpass all my hopes, with students in all year groups actively engaging with the employability agenda.

Spear-heading this commitment is our Mission Employable Student Working Group. With representatives from all departments, PGT and PGR communities, the group has seen students take charge of creating and leading employability activity. The seriousness with which they have approached this is emphasised by student members in a number of subject areas creating an employability 'role' within their Student Society, ensuring that employability is central to their peer-to-peer offer. This active stance has seen Mission Employable gain recognition within SUSU, with a number of University-wide societies - Enactus, Fish On Toast, Bright Futures, and AIESEC - actively engaging with us as the year begins.

This level of engagement would not have been possible without continued support from colleagues within the Faculty and the University as a whole. Our Employability Tutors have supported our students through their event planning, and our Directors of Programmes have answered the calls of my interns on everything from Peer Mentoring to Enterprise. At University level, colleagues in ILIaD, the Social Impact Lab, the Student Champions Network, the Peer Mentoring Network and of course, Careers, have all been a source of support. Personally, I am especially grateful to Charlotte Medland, Prof Alex Neill, Dr Russell Bentley, Dr James Minney, Sarah Rogers, Fiona Harvey and Helen Fuge.

I am enormously proud of what our students have created over the past year - let's not forget that nationally Mission Employable has been recognised by JISC's Change Agents Network as an example of best practice for employability and Peer Mentoring, particularly our use of digital platforms for teaching and learning - and of what my student interns have initiated this summer, and I trust you will join me in encouraging and supporting them through the next academic year.



Our YouTube Channel



As part of our plan to increase student engagement in Mission Employable for 2015/16, and as a result of wonderful work from our student intern team, we are launching our very own YouTube channel in Week 1.

The channel will post a minimum of 1 video per month. Here is a taster of the content for this year:

- 'Welcome to Mission Employable' – an introduction to the initiative, presented by our student intern team;
- HUMA1036 & HUMA2014 information 'teaser' videos using the animation software PowToon;
- Information about the upcoming Employability Festival with Shanel Munnoch, Employer Events Co-ordinator, Careers;
- An interview with Rosalie Lamming, Volunteering Co-ordinator, Careers;
- Videos about student-led events, organised through the Student Working Group.

Mission Employable was also recognised at this year's Excel Awards, where Eleanor won the University Host of the Year Award for the second year running. Here is Eleanor collecting her award, alongside the Business Host of the Year (PC Cox) and Third Sector Host of the Year (The Mayflower Theatre).

To stay updated on our progress:

Like our Facebook page:  www.facebook.com/missionemployable

Follow the Mission Employable team on Twitter:  [@HumsEmployable](https://twitter.com/HumsEmployable)

Follow our team blog containing regular updates from all members of the team:  <http://blog.soton.ac.uk/missionemployable>

Humanities' Enterprise Progress

By **Sophie Pitman:**

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The past twelve weeks have gone incredibly quickly and it seems like only yesterday that I walked into a room of strangers, knowing absolutely nothing about enterprise and IP. While it hasn't been plain sailing, the weeks of research, planning and re-imagining have paid off.

My placement has involved mapping out the existing enterprise opportunities both within the Faculty and across the University, thinking of ways in which we can encourage students to get involved. Enterprise skills are highly valued by employers and what better way to develop these skills than at the University of Southampton which is a fantastic hub for creativity and innovation.

The aim of my research was to encourage students to use their skills to make an impact and I feel I have done just that. Through creating two brand new modules, as well as several IP workshops, I have come to realise how enterprising I am. This placement has made me more confident in my abilities and being shortlisted for the Creativity Award at the 2015 Excel Awards was a fantastic end to the summer.

Humanities' students will soon come to understand that you don't have to be a business student to be an enterprising person. All you need is creativity, initiative and enthusiasm to recognise opportunities that may not be so noticeable to others.

The Mission Employable team have been so welcoming and I look forward to continuing my work with them during term time as both a Film and Enterprise representative on the Student Working Group.



Employability Modules Update

By **Cora Phillips and Bobbi Quinn:** C.E.J.Phillips@soton.ac.uk & B.J.Quinn@soton.ac.uk

Our three months with Mission Employable have certainly been varied, as we have:

- Created the module materials for the Year One and Two Employability modules
- Discovered new digital tools such as PowToon and Haiku Deck;
- Met with staff from all over the University, and;
- Now started filming and editing the first video for the Mission Employable YouTube channel.

Since finishing all of the module materials, which included lecture slides, tasks, Blackboard materials, handouts and videos, we have spent the last week producing some promotional material to encourage student engagement during Week 0. We were inspired by nostalgic games to create student activities. There is Mission Employable 'Snakes and Ladders' to help students understand how we will support their professional development throughout their degree, and when the responsibility for progress lies with them, as well as Mission Employable 'Bunfight Bingo', which aims to get Humanities students talking to as many employability related societies as possible during the Bunfight on Wednesday 23rd September.

Through learning about how to increase other students' employability, we have improved our own by building our awareness of the graduate job market and being encouraged to create Twitter and LinkedIn accounts.

As we finish our time with Mission Employable, we know that this internship has made us much more confident about entering the world of work and - something we weren't expecting - using technology to further our careers.

We hope that students reap the same rewards from the modules we have developed, and we cannot wait to see how this year unfolds and how students respond to our materials.



Mission Employable

HUMA1036

'Knowing, growing and showing the skills for career success'

The new Employability Module BlackBoard banner

Peer Mentoring Scheme Update

By Lewis Brennen: lb9g12@soton.ac.uk

The past few weeks have been a particularly busy and exciting period for me. The results of this are now appearing, as the Peer Mentors make first contact with their mentees and begin preparing for their first meeting. Below, I have outlined some of the bigger parts of the project that I have been working on recently:

- The Peer Mentoring Scheme is a Faculty-wide initiative. However, I wanted to recognise that there are seven different disciplines and ensure that Peer Mentors are able to take a bespoke approach when necessary. To that end, I have been working on creating some subject specific advice. I have made use of feedback from last year's scheme, the knowledge of the student societies, and advice from the Directors of Programmes. The final version of this bespoke advice is in the Mentor Handbook and I hope it will enrich the mentoring experience for new students.
- I have been working hard on creating a training programme for the Peer Mentors, which will ensure they are fully prepared for any challenges they may face, are aware of all the University's pastoral support systems, and know how to use this experience to improve their own employability. In particular, I have been working with Julia Kelly who has kindly agreed to give the Peer Mentors information on how the scheme will work alongside the PAT/Senior Tutor system. I hope, therefore, that the PATs will feel that Peer Mentoring makes an important contribution to the wellbeing of new students.
- The mentors have now been given details on who their mentees are and are in the process of making initial contact with them. I hope you will join me in wishing the mentors the best of luck in their mentoring experience!

In my recent blog post

(<https://blog.soton.ac.uk/missionemployable/2015/09/15/ready-steady-mentor>) I described how I took ownership of this scheme as part of my internship. That fails to reflect, I realise, the important contribution many colleagues have made and so I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to everyone involved.

Peer Mentoring Facts & Figures

178 = The new, larger number of Humanities mentors for 2015/16, after the Faculty increased their student intake for the new year

2 = the number of training sessions that will run to ensure all mentors are trained in good time for their first meetings

2 = number of mentors for each mentoring group of no more than 15 mentees

Monday 21/09 and Tuesday 22/09 = the two mornings in Week 0 when Peer Mentoring training will take place

Lewis Brennen and Charlotte Medland = the Mission Employable team members running the training

Julia Kelly = the member of staff speaking at both training sessions, as Faculty Senior Tutor

Friday 02/10 = the date by which all first year students should have had their first mentor meeting



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How Mission Employable will move forward in 2015/16

By Charlotte Medland:

C.J.Medland@soton.ac.uk

As intern team lead this summer, I have been really impressed with the way in which our new student partners have taken what we created last year and made it even bigger and better.

Cora and Bobbi have such a creative, student-facing outlook on the project, and their work on the modules, Blackboard sites and YouTube channel has been invaluable for student engagement planning.

Lewis has ensured that incoming students find the transition into higher education less daunting by incorporating subject specific advice into the Mentor Handbooks to ensure that we are supporting each discipline in their offer to first-year students.

Sophie is continuing to transform our understanding of enterprise within the Humanities, collaborating with colleagues and peers on a Faculty and University level to create activity that demystifies entrepreneurship and IP.

Francesca is working hard on the REALIE website from her Year Abroad base in Aix-en-Provence – and won this year's Excel Placement Award for Community!

The Mission Employable team with Suzi Christian-Greaves & Tim Hicks from Careers at the 2015 Excel Awards, where Eleanor won University Host of the Year for the second year in a row!

If you would like to comment on, contribute to, or simply find out more about our work, please contact us at the relevant address:

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The REALIE Project: Student Contributors

By Francesca Rock: F.Rock@soton.ac.uk

As the summer draws to a close and the Mission Employable internships come to an end, the REALIE blog is just beginning! Now that September is upon us, several Humanities students have embarked on their Year Abroad journeys or are preparing to do so in the coming weeks. The REALIE blog was launched at the start of September, with introductory posts from our student contributors who will continue to share their development throughout the academic year, with personal experiences, hints, tips and advice.

I am excited to adopt a new role within this project as editor of the blog and have the opportunity to work with a number of other students over the academic year. REALIE will be regularly updated with students' posts from their own Residency Abroad, offering guidance to their peers who share the same experiences and to those who are considering undertaking a Residency Abroad during their degree. Moreover, there will also be posts from students who have already completed a residency abroad and alumni who will give advice and show how the year abroad can be used to good effect when it comes to finding a graduate job.

Now that the blog is live, I look forward to being able to share REALIE with students and develop it further over the coming months. I have thoroughly enjoyed working as a part of the Mission Employable team over the summer and feel incredibly fortunate to be able to continue to do so remotely throughout my Year Abroad!

To read the blogs from our Student Contributors please see

www.realie.org

Note: After this piece was written, Francesca won the Community Award at this year's Excel Awards for her work on REALIE.

Congratulations Francesca!



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