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Southampton

Issue 2 Summer 2015 Newsletter | Humanities

Mission Employable

Knowing, growing and showing the skills for career success.

What has been happening in the Mission Employable team this month?

- HUMA1036 & HUMA2014 Employability Modules
- Enterprise in the Humanities
- Peer Mentoring Scheme
- Eportfolios for employability
- A word from our Careers & Employability Service partners

Take a look inside to see how our 2015/16 Faculty employability planning is progressing. Enjoy the issue!

Employability Modules Update

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

Looking back six weeks ago to our first newsletter, it feels as if we have come so far – both with the project and personally. We have made good progress, and the structure and lecture content of the HUMA1036 module is nearly finalised! Following meetings with our partners in Careers, we have created new lectures and also incorporated some fresh ideas and interactive elements into existing content.

ILIaD will present again on the interesting and essential topic of students' online presence, the Excel placement team will run a session on the placements and projects available at the University, and there will also be a session on enterprise, a topic which is becoming increasingly important to graduate employability. We are really excited about some of the sessions, particularly the Entering Enterprise session that we created with Sophie, the Humanities Enterprise Champion. What's great about this session is the many interactive elements we've been able to include, despite Enterprise being a relatively new concept within Humanities.

Attending two workshops delivered by Fiona Harvey, the Education Development Manager for ILIaD, really helped us learn about how digital platforms and tools can be used to engage students with course material and information. The sessions not only taught us about the platforms, but encouraged us to search and discover tools independently, and consequently, we have used Kahoot, Today's Meet and PowToon in our lectures.

So, as it stands, here is the structure for the year one employability module:
Lecture 1: Mission Employable: Knowing the Skills for Career Success
Lecture 2: Making the most of your degree
Lecture 3: Your digital footprint
Lecture 4: Create the perfect CV
Lecture 5: Stand out from the crowd: Projects and Placements
Lecture 6: Entering Enterprise: The skills you didn't think you had

We also recently had a meeting with Stephan Caspar from ILIaD about creating a promotional video for Mission Employable (with the working title 'More than just a module') that we hope will help students grasp what Mission Employable is all about. Stephan has also agreed to run a workshop for the team, so even though we have a lot to get through in the coming weeks with the HUMA2014 module, we're sure we still have a lot of creativity and innovative tools to harness.

Watch this space for HUMA2014 news soon!

Improving Student Engagement

To encourage further student engagement with Mission Employable in 2015/16, we are:

- Creating a Communications Strategy that will direct and manage student communications throughout the year, including module, Careers, student-led and external partners information;

- Launching a monthly student newsletter, that will be tailored for all levels of study (including PGT & PGR) with forthcoming opportunities, events, advice and guidance;

- Creating our very own YouTube channel! This will be populated using content from the Employability Module, Peer Mentoring Scheme, and student-led events and activities;

- Including training on LinkedIn and Twitter within the HUMA2014 module, with support from ILIaD;

- Offering additional support sessions on digital literacy skills, outside of the module, to encourage further student development and engagement with support services like ILIaD and Careers.

Humanities' Enterprise Update
By Sophie Pitman:
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When I began this project, I knew it would be a challenge, and I was certainly right. I am now halfway through my enterprise project and I've discovered through my research that many students and staff need to know a lot more about the relevance of enterprise, especially within the Faculty of Humanities which has little business orientation.

Realistically, not all Humanities students decide they want to become entrepreneurs but nearly all students will work with a business of some kind. Whether this is a charity, bank, or newspaper corporation; students will have to come face to face with business.

My research over the past few weeks has led me to converse with many staff on the issues surrounding student/staff perceptions of enterprise and Intellectual Property (IP) and the feedback has been varied. Some were extremely positive about my project, understanding the importance of enterprise education within the curriculum. They agreed that many Humanities students were no longer satisfied with studying a degree that many in society have labelled superfluous in comparison to STEM subjects. Students need the opportunity to use their skills in a business environment.

Other staff members were not so convinced, struggling to see the relevance of enterprise within academia. As a result, I've realised that, before I can approach students with my ideas, I need to first persuade staff of the importance of enterprise education within the curriculum.

Simultaneously, I've been tasked with creating a module that is specific to the Humanities – a Faculty known for its broad subject areas and diverse job opportunities. The module is still in the early development stage but I'm sure that, working alongside the Mission Employable team and staff partners, we will create something useful and engaging for all.

Careers and Mission Employable

By Kathryn Wood K.M.Wood@soton.ac.uk

I am Kathryn Wood, Manager in Careers, and we are a very proud partner to Mission Employable.

One of the best but also one of the most challenging things for Humanities students is that there is so much choice after university. This is why embedded, tailored career support is important, and why we want to work with students from year 1. Our partnership with Mission Employable is allowing us to do just that.

A key role for us in working with Mission Employable is providing employability and careers expertise that underpins the module content, and you will see us delivering many of the employability module lectures. We are really enjoying working closely with Bobbi and Cora to make sure that the lectures are meaningful, innovative, engaging and relevant and you will be receiving the results of this during the coming year.

We also contribute to the Mission Employable Student Working Group, meaning that we support the planning of your discipline events that occur during the year. We'll be at each event so students can network with us, ask questions and pick up information.

Careers have a unique offer of learning opportunities, experience programmes and opportunities to get personalised support within the University which students will be directed to via Mission Employable. Examples include the Excel Placement Programme, our Events Calendar and Drop-In service. These additional activities are essential for applying and contextualising the learning experiences developed through the module.

We're really looking forward to the roll out of the module for year 2 students in 2015 and continuing to support Mission Employable.

The Excel Placement Programme offers hundreds of student internships during term vacation time – and they recruited for Mission Employable! They also attend our student-led events throughout the year.

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Peer Mentoring Scheme Update

By Lewis Brennen: lb9g12@soton.ac.uk

My Peer Mentoring Scheme update in the last newsletter left off with recruitment underway. I am pleased to report that the recruitment process is now complete. This year we have a total of 168 Peer Mentors across the Faculty. I was particularly pleased to see a rise in applications from History, English and Modern Languages students, which should ensure that group sizes for these subjects are smaller and therefore we can give each mentee more attention this year.

Following on from this, my main task has been to review last year's feedback and come up with a set of proposals for the 2015/16 Peer Mentoring Scheme structure. This has included liaising with the Admissions Team to get the details of incoming students as soon as possible, to ensure that first years can be put into mentoring groups in good time for them to be contacted by their Mentors. Many thanks to Lenia Batten and Natasha Renwick-Meikle for being so helpful with this.

Arranging the introduction of first years to the Scheme and to their Mentors was another important part of this process, as it was a key piece of feedback from last year. Charlotte and I met with Louise Harrison from the Student Office to discuss how we could build Peer Mentoring into the departmental induction talks, so thank you, Lou, for your help with this.

This biggest part of organising the scheme structure was deciding on recommended meeting topics, based on last year's feedback. This has now been completed, which leads on to my next big task: ensuring resources are in place for each meeting's topic!

Peer Mentoring Facts & Figures

168 = Humanities mentors for 2015/16

7 = number of disciplines that the scheme covers: Archaeology, English, Film, History, Modern Languages, Music, and Philosophy

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

7 = number of Mentor Officers – student representatives from each discipline who help support the mentors and Peer Mentoring Coordinator

2.5 = number of hours that the mentors will spend being trained by the Peer Mentoring Coordinator and Humanities Employability Coordinator

21 = date in September 2015 for the mentor training

12 = number of weeks that the scheme runs for in semester 1

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ePortfolios for Employability: Pathbrite

By Charlotte Medland: C.J.Medland@soton.ac.uk

Since the last newsletter, planning for the HUMA2014 module ePortfolio pilot has been shared with our partners in IlIaD and Careers, and we have started thinking about how we will encourage the Year 2 students to adopt Pathbrite as part of their learning and development.

A big part of this is going to be training. I will be delivering the first HUMA2014 lecture to explain to the students:

- Why we think using ePortfolios will benefit them;
- How they can get started, and;
- What support is available to them.

In addition, we will be offering a Pathbrite 'Getting Started' drop-in session on Avenue in the week following lecture 1, so that students can return to us for further help, ideas, and support. However, as we do not currently have a University license for Pathbrite, the majority of our support will be online through the Blackboard VLE, with links to additional resources elsewhere on the internet.

As the Pathbrite pilot will run through the Year 2 Employability Module, we have been working closely with our delivery partners in Careers to ensure that it is the driving force behind the content for our second year 'Growing' theme. I have also been working closely with Bobbi and Cora to create imaginative ways of integrating Pathbrite into the tasks and activities for HUMA2014 lectures – watch this space!

The REALIE Project: Recruitment Update

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

It is hard to believe that it was three months ago I entered the Mission Employable Office to start my role as the Educational Development Officer for Year Abroad Intern. I was nervous but excited to start working on the project and loved how much freedom I had to direct the project whilst being supported by both Charlotte and Eleanor. I learnt so much in such a short space of time and loved every moment of my time in the office. When I left Southampton I was excited to continue my role on a part time basis and begin to share REALIE (www.realie.org) with students, staff and alumni, focusing on developing the blogging platform and sourcing contributors.

Two months after leaving Southampton and having said my final farewell to Eleanor, Charlotte and the rest of the Mission Employable team in Southampton, I am excited to begin my Year Abroad adventure and work with a team of 15 student contributors to share the experiences, challenges and opportunities that studying and working in a foreign culture presents.

We will be launching REALIE in the coming weeks with introductory blog posts from each of the student bloggers plus contributions from alumni and students returning from their own year abroad. The students blogging throughout the academic year will be sharing their experiences from all over the world; REALIE will cover ten countries including Mexico, Austria and Canada, providing a wealth of advice for students considering a residency abroad and for their peers.

I have loved working on this project and with the Mission Employable team; I now look forward to working with the student bloggers and sharing my own experiences via REALIE.