

Christmas 2015 Review Newsletter | Humanities

Mission Employable

Knowing, growing and showing the skills for career success.

As the festive season approaches, we look back at what Mission Employable has achieved so far this year, and what is still to come!

With new student partners, an ever-expanding Student Working Group, new module sessions, external partners, and even a Public Engagement project, this semester has been our busiest yet.

In this issue, you will also be introduced to new members of our team, and given a sneak peek at new activity planned for the spring.

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National Recognition for Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL)

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

Mission Employable has had an eventful semester: launching our new second year employability module, HUMA2014; rolling out our updated first year module, HUMA1036; and hosting our first External Advisory Board. Picking up on the University's Enhancement theme, Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL), we've embarked on three ventures which make use of new technology to enhance our students learning experience:

First, **introducing Pathbrite e-portfolio into HUMA2014**. Pathbrite provides students with a mechanism for hosting their online presence, discussing what they've achieved within, alongside and outside their degree. Our Pathbrite trial is funded by the University's Education Enhancement Fund (EEF) and part of a University-wide project I am leading, which includes trials of the e-portfolio in Engineering and Geography.

Second, **hosting our first LinkedIn Lab in partnership with SUSU**. Open from 2-5pm, and run as a drop-in session, the Lab accommodated students who wanted to set up their profile, improve their existing presence, grow their connections or research job opportunities using the digital platform. There was even the opportunity to have a professional photo taken! Feedback from those who participated was excellent, so we will be looking to run another next semester.

Third, **Mission Employable has a new iChamp, second year English and History student Ursula Grover**. Ursula will be helping us to think about Digital Badges in advance of the University's Open Badges in HE conference, set for 8th March 2016. Want to know more about Digital Badges? "Badges are essentially online certificates that can hold lots of data. They are interactive images (hence the term 'badge') that when clicked open up web pages with information. A typical badge provides the name of the organisation that issued it, when it was issued, what it was issued for (a list of criteria that needed to be met) and a link to evidence that supports the award. "

https://slate.adobe.com/cp/aUPoX/?mc_cid=926fa6a3a5&mc_eid=c5591bf108

We are considering creating a Mission Employable badge which students could display on their Pathbrite e-portfolio, and Ursula will help us work out what that might look like.

I hope that you enjoy reading our newsletter and finding out what else we've been up to!

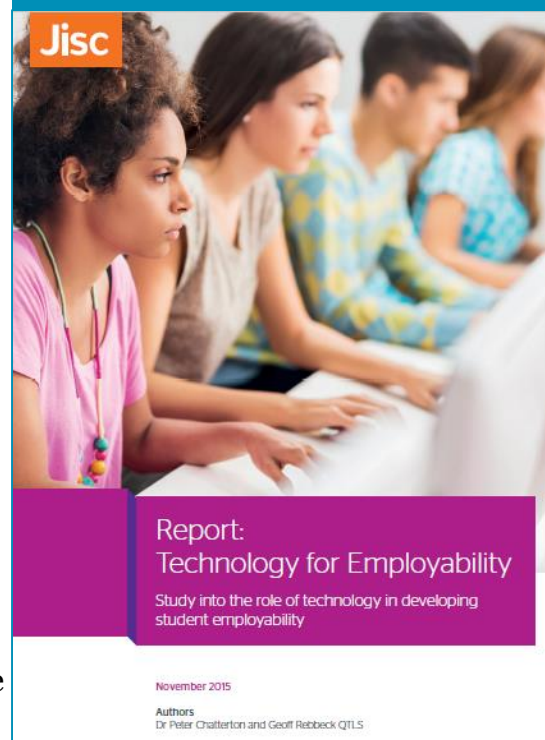
Mission Employable has already been recognised nationally for its innovative use of technology to engage students with the employability agenda. Following my TED-style talk at the University's TEL Conference, I was approached by JISC (formerly known as the Joint Information Systems Committee) and invited to contribute to their report on the use of technology for employability. JISC stated that Mission Employable was an excellent case study example, showcasing educational innovation and best practice in the use of digital platforms in employability teaching and learning.

The Mission Employable case study was published last month as part of the 'Technology for Employability' report, co-authored by Dr Peter Chatterton and Geoff Rebbeck QTLS.

The report can be found here: <https://www.jisc.ac.uk/rd/projects/developing-student-employability>

The HE case studies, which include Mission Employable, can be found here:

http://repository.jisc.ac.uk/6250/6/Technology_for_employability_-_HE_case_studies.PDF



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>



Global
Entrepreneurship
Week

The University took part in its first Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) from 16th-23rd November.

Our Enterprise Champion, Sophie Pitman, held a talk on Intellectual Property (IP) in the Humanities following her course at the IPO in Newport in August 2015.

GEW had a stall at our History student-led event on Wednesday 18th November.

SUSU Enterprise Officer & ML student Jamie Furlong hosted an enterprising alumni talk with Pedro Cordero on Monday 23rd November.

Further enterprising activity is planned throughout the year, so look out for more events after Christmas.

Employability Modules Update

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

HUMA1036: The First-Year Module

The first semester has been filled with sessions to increase our first-year students' awareness of their skill strengths. Sessions were held in Weeks 3, 7 and 10 to ensure that students were getting a steady stream of information and were encouraged to explore the options available to them at Southampton.

Session 1 focused on 'Knowing the Skills for Career Success'; session 2 on 'Making the Most of Your Degree', where opportunities resources such as OPUS (<http://opus.soton.ac.uk/>) were introduced to students; and session 3 asked them to think about their 'Digital Footprint'. The final session of the semester was followed by a Faculty-wide LinkedIn lab on Wednesday 9th December: an overview of this event is on p.5.



HUMA2014: The Second-Year Module

The second-year module is brand new for 2015/16, and so far student feedback has been positive. We have asked students to explore the 'growing' element of their University experience by taking part in an e-portfolio pilot using Pathbrite (www.Pathbrite.com). Jemma Jones, a current Archaeology PhD student, is the Teaching Assistant facilitating this pilot and is working with the Mission Employable team and Careers to ensure that students are engaging with e-portfolios in a productive manner that enhances their professional development.

Sessions have taken place so far in Weeks 2, 4 and 10 and addressed; the Introduction to E-portfolios; Exploring Career Options; and Psyching up for Psychometric Testing. In semester 2 our Year 2 students will gain 'Employer Insight' and learn how to 'Climb the Digital Ladder' through the module, with help from our external partners and [ILlAD](#).

Don't Forget: Excel Internships, based in Careers, publicise term-time and vacation work experience placements throughout the year, all of which are paid and vetted to ensure that each role involves graduate-level skills. Direct your students to the MyCareer portal for the most recent opportunities and details of how to apply:

<https://mycareer.soton.ac.uk/home.html>

Student Working Group: Collaborations and Events

By Meera Shirodkar: M.Shirodkar@soton.ac.uk

Since its launch our Mission Employable Working Group has gone from strength to strength. Its efforts have created more opportunities for valuable student engagements and activities to look forward to. The Working Group involves student representatives from across the Humanities disciplines along with partners such as the SUSU Humanities subject societies, Fish on Toast (FoT), TeachFirst, Careers Volunteering Bank, AIESEC, Bright Futures and Careers.

The FoT committee is expanding its scope from entrepreneurship to transferable business skills to strengthen their links with and relevance to Humanities students. Working Group members will connect the various FoT activities with events on campus to increase student participation. TeachFirst, a charity to end inequality in education, hopes to contribute to leadership and effective communication skills training as well as enable networking with external partners in not-for-profit organisations. Their participation in the Humanities careers events this year will raise awareness of their paid training initiatives such as Insight and Leadership Development Programmes and make them more accessible to Humanities students.

In addition, the AIESEC Southampton and the Careers Volunteering Hub are also seeking proactive participation from our student partners to encourage Humanities involvement. Careers continues to support Humanities students with Mission Employable activities and the Employability Module, as well as central workshops & events. The relaunch of the 'Careers Mentoring Project' is an important step in this direction. The Group will help to generate more awareness of this project among our students.

We are pleased to have co-organised several successful events for the History, English, Archaeology and Philosophy Departments in collaboration with their various student societies. The events were well attended and full of enthusiastic interactions with students during the sessions. The speakers from ILLaD, the presence of Creative Industries and Enterprising societies such as SUSUtv, Surge Radio, Bright Futures, AIESEC, Wessex Scene, Soton Tab and The Edge were some of the added attractions that received favourable reviews. The overall positive student response and participation across these disciplines will lead to Alumni Panel Talks in semester two.

Keeping the needs of PGR students in mind, an event was successfully conducted in partnership with GradNet this week, thus extending our reach across Humanities. We are also looking forward to additional events with Music, Modern Languages and Film in the very near future.

We are thankful for everyone's contributions and the encouraging student feedback that has infused our Working Group with fresh motivation to fulfill and exceed its role with more activities and events in the new year!

New to the Mission Employable team: Meera

A first-year PGR student in Film, my academic background and training are multidisciplinary. I completed my undergraduate degree in English Literature and an MA in Mass Communication, specialising Film Studies & Production. After working in the media industry I moved back to academia, which has always been my primary interest. I taught film-related undergraduate courses back home in India before deciding it was time to get back to the books again.

It has been a whirlwind few months so far in Southampton and so rewarding. After being in the professional sphere the transition to the life of a full-time student was starting to feel more and more challenging to me. I was looking for an opportunity to use my experience whilst pursue academia. Mission Employable is the perfect platform to use my skills (which I was afraid would begin to rust soon!) and gain valuable skills and experience working on their unique initiative.

I am hoping to become a proactive member of this team and look forward to getting better acquainted with you all over the course of my time with this lovely team.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas and a wonderful year ahead!



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Humanities Peer Mentoring

The 2015-16 Peer Mentoring Scheme was launched during Induction Week with Mentor and Mentor Officer training. Over two mornings, the student mentors were prepared for their roles and made aware of resources from the Faculty, SUSU and Student Services.

Humanities Senior Tutor, Julia Kelly, kindly presented at each training morning about the role of the Personal Academic Tutor and Senior Tutors, and how to keep the channels of effective communication open during semester 1, particularly considering the numbers involved in student intake this year.

After the first 4 mentor meetings of the year, the Mid-Point Review took place on Wednesday 11th November 2015, where all Mentor Officers reported on Mentor feedback to our Peer Mentoring Coordinator, Lewis Brennen. Anything that needed immediate attention was escalated to the appropriate members of staff. The End-Point Review will take place in Week 12.

External Advisory Board

(EAB)

Our EAB was launched on 20th October 2015 with a meal at the Ovation Restaurant, Mayflower Theatre. External partners (half of whom are also alumni) from the heritage, creative industries, multinational, finance, and welfare sectors met the team and learnt how they can contribute expertise over the academic year. Their presence on campus will increase in semester 2 with module sessions & Working Group events

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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Humanities Employability Coordinator - Charlotte Medland: C.J.Medland@soton.ac.uk

Mission Employable TA – Meera Shirodkar: M.Shirodkar@soton.ac.uk

Enterprise – Sophie Pitman: S.E.L.Pitman@soton.ac.uk

Peer Mentoring 2015-16 - Lewis Brennen: lb9g12@soton.ac.uk

Public Engagement: Mission Employable and Radian Housing

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

Mission Employable was introduced to Radian's Barbara Cooke at a 2014 event as Barbara wanted help to realise her vision of a community event to inspire, based on the WW1 history of the Swaythling area. After our initial meeting, Radian took part in the Student Consultancy Scheme, doing the necessary research to get this project started. During the summer of 2015, Radian (<http://www.radian.co.uk/>) approached us with the idea of a longer-term partnership to ensure community participation and enhancement.

A project plan was hatched and the 'History Learning Programme' was submitted to the Public Engagement with Research Development Fund. Our bid was successful, and Mission Employable's first public engagement project will include:

- A set of 3 research projects by the core team (University of Southampton and Radian). These projects will be given to current University students (through the HIST2008 Group Project & through a volunteer call) to work on in partnership with community volunteers;
- Facilitated by Radian, with student support via Humanities, these research projects will form the information base for a series of May-July mini history events, before a final open air summer event in August 2016, to coincide with the centenary of Richard Willis-Fleming's wartime death in North Africa (4th August 1916);
- A springboard for future learning among Radian residents by exposing them to the passion, knowledge and skills of current Southampton students and staff;
- Highlighting the transferable benefits of such work to the students involved.

We will keep you updated on our progress as the project develops, so watch this space!

In the meantime, if you would like to contribute to the project please contact either Dr Eleanor Quince (E.M.Quince@soton.ac.uk) or Charlotte Medland ([C.J.Medland](mailto:C.J.Medland@soton.ac.uk))

