



HELP Conference

Higher Education Learning Partnerships to meet the needs of students and employers in the land based sector

April 7th 2003 Universities UK, London

Organised by:

Real World Project at the University of Newcastle and University of Sunderland.

Professional Scholarship Programme (PSP) Project at Harper Adams University College and Writtle College.

Student Progression and Transfer (SPAT) Project at University of Plymouth and University of Ulster.

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The HELP conference offers a unique opportunity for those working in the land based sector to contribute to and learn from ongoing action research in learning and teaching. The conference brings together three higher education projects, each of which are based in land, rural and environmental subject disciplines. Invitations are being issued to all HE and FE providers in these discipline areas.

The conference aims to

- Develop a better understanding of the political, industrial and academic issues which are currently affecting Higher Education.
- Provide practical solutions for academics to address national agendas – such as widening participation, employability, and enhancing progression and retention.
- Highlight good practice from each of the projects as well as lessons learnt.
- Provide opportunities for other projects or participants to share their related work and experience.

The **Real World** project focuses on enhancing student employability through the integration of work related learning (WRL) into the curriculum. Working on employability at both a strategic and practical level presents a challenge, although developing partnerships with stakeholders such as careers services, employers, Sector Skills Councils and professional bodies can help to secure the embedding of WRL into the curriculum. The project is funding 10 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to undertake curriculum development initiatives to gain a greater understanding of what is 'good practice' in WRL. ***The project will offer an insight into how practitioners can engage stakeholders and effectively enhance employability, through showcasing some initiatives.***

The **Professional Scholarship Programme** (PSP) offers an integrated approach to skills development, designed to improve students' transferable skills, employability and career management abilities, together with the capability to learn independently. The programme has developed a series of curriculum modules, supported by resource packs, designed to progressively develop graduate skills, an industrial placement which embraces a reflective learning element and a personal development planning framework. ***Although PSP has been designed for land-based provision, the programme offers opportunities for the integration of skills into vocational curricula across the whole Higher Education sector.***

The **SPAT** project is concerned with disseminating good practice relating to partnerships between further education colleges teaching Higher Education (such as HNDs or foundation degrees) and HE institutions which offer a direct entry for these students to "top up" to a degree. Good practice from the SPAT project has a wider applicability to widening participation, retention and employability. ***The SPAT project will highlight how partnerships work and give participants the opportunity to learn from those who have had experience of planned transfer.***

Conference Programme

Chairperson Paul Martin, National Co-ordination Team (supported by the Teaching and Quality Enhancement Fund - TQEF)

- 1000 Registration and Coffee
- 1030 Open and Welcome
Paul Martin, National Co-ordination Team
- 1040 **Keynote Presentation**
'Drivers of HE Policy and Implications for the Curriculum'
Professor Roger Lewis, Regional Consultant, HEFCE
- 1100 Student Progression and Transfer; an overview of the project and its outcomes
- 1120 SPAT Workshops:
- Mark Stone, University of Plymouth, *Academic Partnerships'*
 - Dr Clare Carter, University of Ulster, *Facilitating Transition in HE'*
 - *HE in FE good practice*
- 1210 **Keynote Presentation**
'Current development work across the sector in support of the 50% target'
Professor Brian Chalkley National Teaching Fellow University of Plymouth
- 1230 Professional Scholarship Programme: an overview of the project and its outcomes
- 1250 Lunch
- 1340 Professional Scholarship Programme Workshops:
- *Curriculum development: engaging staff and students*
 - *Professional Scholarship: what is it and how do we develop it?*
 - *Integrating personal development planning into vocational curricula*
- 1430 **Keynote Presentation**
'How employers can contribute to curriculum development, delivery and assessment'
Mike Smith, Head of Development, Lantra
- 1450 Real World Project; an overview of the project and its outcomes
- 1510 Real World Workshops:
Three academics will give an overview of how they have developed modules to incorporate work related learning into the curriculum:
- Dr Sarah Maguire, University of Ulster, *Enterprise and Employability*
 - Dr Ann Worsley, Edge Hill, *Developing external links through teaching and learning in Geography and Environmental Science: the use of the mini-conference'*
 - Dr Jenny Jones , Liverpool John Moores University *Work Based Learning for Academic Credit*
- 1600 Poster Presentations with wine and cheese reception
Project resources will also be on display during poster sessions
- 1700 Close

Call for Posters

We would welcome posters that address any of the following themes:

- Partnerships between FE and HE
- Student Progression and Transfer
- Addressing employability in the Curriculum
- Enhancing Graduate Skills
- Personal Development Planning

If you are interested in presenting a poster (size to be A1) please submit a 200 word abstract with your email details, for inclusion in the conference papers, to Emma Clamp by March 21st 2003. If you would like to discuss your ideas prior to submitting an abstract please feel free to contact Emma Clamp, the Real World Project Manager (0191 222 7795, Emma.Clamp@ncl.ac.uk) or Abigail Hind, PSP Project Manager (01952 820 280, amhind@harper-adams.ac.uk).

Conference Fee

The cost of the conference including all refreshments, lunch and a cheese and wine reception is £50 including VAT.

Payment Terms

On completion of the booking form, payment may be made by cheque or direct credit transfer, upon invoice.

Travel

Universities UK is based at Woburn House, 20 Tavistock Place, London. It is within walking distance of Kings Cross, St Pancras and Euston mainline railway stations. For more detailed information please view the following website: <http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/location/>

Accommodation

There are a range of Imperial Hotels (<http://www.imperialhotels.co.uk/>) within a 5 minute walk from Woburn House to suit all budgets including:

County Hotel

All 175 rooms are centrally heated with basins, radio, T.V, telephone, tea & coffee making facilities.

Bathrooms are shared with 4 other rooms

Single Rooms from £39 (Price includes an English Breakfast and VAT)

Royal National Hotel

All rooms are en suite with satellite TV, radio and tea/coffee making facilities. Computer points & hairdryers are available on request.

Single Rooms from £66 (Price includes a Continental Breakfast and VAT)

For bookings please call +44 (0)20 7278 7871/2/3

BOOKING FORM

People can either apply online at <http://www.spat.ac.uk/help/> or complete the form below and return it by March 21st 2003 to:

Emma Clamp
Centre for Academic Development
Armstrong Building,
University of Newcastle,
NE1 7RU

Please tick as appropriate:

I would like to reserve a place on the HELP Conference ☐

I am interested in presenting a poster at the HELP Conference:

Partnerships between FE and HE ☐

Student Progression and Transfer ☐

Addressing employability in the Curriculum ☐

Enhancing Graduate Skills ☐

Personal Development Planning ☐

Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms (Please delete as appropriate)

Surname:..... Forename:.....

Position:.....

Organisation:.....

Address:.....

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Postcode:..... Email:.....

Tel:..... Fax:.....

Any special needs/dietary requirements.....

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ATTENDANCE FEE

The attendance fee is £50 per delegate including VAT. This includes all refreshments and lunch.

Payment

☐ Cheque enclosed payable to; University of Newcastle upon Tyne

☐ Invoice for £50 to the individual provided below:

Addressee.....

Address.....

.....

Purchase Order Number.....

(essential for invoice request)

CANCELLATIONS

Cancellation prior to 15th March 2003 – full refund less £25 administration charge. Cancellation after 15th March 2003 – no refund can be made. Substitutions are allowable at any time.