

Employability and Personal Development Planning – a suitable case for partnership?

Thursday 4th September 2008, 10.30a.m. – 3.30p.m.
The University of Leicester (Gilbert Murray Conference Suite)

The Context:

The opportunities for partnership between PDP and employability continue to develop as the connections between pedagogy for good learning and for employability and formal and informal learning and employability are increasingly recognised.

It is now ten years since the evaluation of the Career Management Skills Projects (Hustler et al, 1997) identified both the centrality of partnership arrangements in delivering CMS to students, and noted the emergence of PDP type practice (learning logs, reflective diaries) in supporting career-development learning. Subsequently the work of the Employability National Co-ordination Team (ESECT, 2002-5) emphasised the connections between learning and employability:

“employability is enhanced by good learning. The complex achievements employers value sit well with good learning in higher education”

and the importance of both support student reflection on and documenting in and out-of-class achievements and raising students’ capacity to represent their achievements. Most recently feedback in respect of the Scottish Enhancement theme on Employability has served to reinforce the connection between PDP and Employability and the final report of the Burgess Steering Group (at http://bookshop.universitiesuk.ac.uk/downloads/Burgess_final.pdf) noted that:

‘the present system cannot capture achievement in some key areas of interest to students and employers’, and emphasised that ‘further work should be done on how to measure and record skills and achievements gained through non-formal learning ... as ...part of Personal Development Planning’.

This joint CRA/AGCAS event, the third in an annual series, will:

- **Bring you up-to-date with policy and practice agendas at national level,**
- **Identify a range of partnerships that Careers Services and academic staff may be part of to support effective PDP and**
- **Showcase examples of such partnership practice, and the learning that has emerged from such initiatives.**

It will be relevant to anybody involved in implementing PDP, employability, teaching and learning, and in supporting the professional development of graduates.

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Programme:

10.00 Registration, tea/coffee

10.30 Welcome and introductions: the policy context

- *Paul Jackson, Director of Student Services, University of Leicester,
Margaret Dane, Chief Executive, AGCAS & Rob Ward, Director and Aminder
Nijjar, Associate Director, CRA*

11.00 Workshop A

Select from a range of workshops including:

- *Strategies for employability and PDP partnerships: showcasing evidence of a PDP model operating via the Personal Tutor System*
- *Sense and Employability – building links between English and employment*
- *PDP and the Careers Service working in partnership*

12.00 PDP & graduate recruitment

Supporting lifelong professional development

- *Rachel Hewson, Graduate Recruitment, Deloitte and Touche LLP*

12.45 Lunch

1.45 Workshop B

Select from a range of workshops including:

- *PDP for career development with post-doctoral graduates based in sub-Saharan Africa Pandora's box: what happened when we embarked on the development of a web-based e-Portfolio to deliver the employability agenda*
- *What a difference a year abroad makes!*

2.45 Embedding PDP in the curriculum

- *Arti Kumar, Associate Director, Bridges CETL, University of Bedfordshire*

3.05 Plenary

What can AGCAS & CRA do to support you in developing PDP and employability relationships within your organisations?

- *Graham Nicholson, Director of Careers Service, AGCAS & Rob Ward, Director and Aminder Nijjar, Associate Director, CRA*

3.30 Close, tea/coffee