

## The Scotland Work Experience Monitor (SWEM)

### THEME:

- Development of **institutional capacity** to engage successfully in international education
- Activities to **support post-graduation employment of international students in Scotland**

### OUTLINE:

Work experience is a vital component of employability. It connects students to the workplace and brings employers closer to the university. At least it should do. Across Scotland's universities thousands of international students each year gain work experience, but there is no coordinated record of their expectations on commencement and their reflections on completion. The SWEM would create a national knowledge base and best practice resource benefitting students, universities and employers. The central data source would enable universities and the Government to measure the extent of work experience for international students, the extent of integration and achievement in this key area.

### PROCESS:

- Development of a 2-part semi-standardised questionnaire for students: pre-commencement and completion
- Institutions ask academic departments to email students before they start a placement
- Students click a link to complete part A of the questionnaire
- The questionnaire includes a question on duration of placement
- A follow-up email is automatically sent (from the survey system) on completion of placement
- Students click a link to record their reflections on the experience (part B)
- I-graduate reports back to institutions regularly on expectations v reflections
- Annual All-Scotland report generated for Government and all institutions

### FEASIBILITY:

The regular ISB Barometer process now takes feedback from over 140,000 students each year. Development would take up to 3 months, in consultation with university partners.

### UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS:

Involvement in the initial consultation process

### CENTRAL (GOVT) COST:

£25,000\*

### MATCHED FUNDING REQUIREMENT:

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\* Difficult to specify at this stage – depends how centralised or decentralised the work experience processes are in universities – and how much adaptation is required at an institutional level. To discuss.

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