University of Dundee Employability Strategy

Objectives

• Articulation of skills, knowledge and personal attributes that students acquire from their programme of study in the form of a Dundee Graduate Skillset.
• Development of these skills through the delivery of existing programmes and extra-curricular activities through the new Dundee Graduate Skills Award.
• Development of liaison between University and employers.
• Provision of information and support to ensure that students appreciate the value of demonstrating their employability.
• Development of records system to ensure that academic transcripts reflect students skills, attributes and knowledge.
• Development of systems for the promotion of students skills to employers, through My PDP.

Employability Task Force

Remit & Membership

• To lead the implementation of the University’s Employability Strategy.
• To provide a focus for the development and management of other employability related activities involving Careers Service and Enterprise Gym.
• To liaise with Dundee University Students Association on student employability related issues.
• Representatives from Colleges, Library and Learning Centre, Careers Service, DUSA, employers, Academic Affairs, Enterprise Gym.

Careers Service activity

• Dundee Graduate Skills Award.
• Placement Basement.
• Four Pilots of Toolkit Skills Checklist.
• Careers Education for Undergraduates and Postgraduates – new Scottish Internship Graduate Certificate.

Examples of College Activity

• Skills, Professionalism and Employability in College of Life Sciences (SPELS).
• Professional and Employability in Geography (PEG) and Law, Employability and Professionalism (LEAP) – College of Arts and Social Sciences.
• Placement Pitch in the College of Art, Science and Engineering.
• New dedicated Careers Adviser for Medicine, part-funded by the College of Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing.

Questions & Issues

As detailed above, College involvement with SHEEN (Scottish Higher Education Employability Network) related activity is good, but it is too early to assess the impact of the Employability Strategy. However, our key issues and questions at this stage are:

• How can we engage students effectively?
• How can we get appropriate buy-in from academic staff?
• How can we market the outputs of the Strategy to employers?