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Ward, Lisa J. and Gaffikin, Jane A.

How inspirational and innovative Teaching and Learning projects at the University of Huddersfield prepare our graduates with employability skills for a changing world of work.

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Teaching and Learning Projects
Lisa Ward and Jane Gaffikin

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals

WACE World Conference
Vancouver, June 2009
How inspirational and innovative Teaching and Learning Projects at the University of Huddersfield prepare our graduates with employability skills for a changing world of work

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Inspiring tomorrow's professionals
Background

• Pro-Vice Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)
• Teaching and Learning Strategy
• Strapline
• TQEF Projects / HEFCE
• Lisa Ward – Programme Manager
• 2006-09 15 Projects Across Four themes
• Placement Project
• Extra Mile Awards

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Themes

• Transitions into University
• Creativity and Innovation
• Research and it’s Link to Practice
• The University in the Wider Community

• Website www.hud.ac.uk/tqef

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Website www.hud.ac.uk/tqef
Commonalities

• Keeping Students
• Reaching potential
• Improved T&L Experience
• Widening Participation
• Right feedback, right time
• Ensuring career success
• Confidence

=> Employability Skills for Changing world of work

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Theme One – Transitions Library and IT Mentors

- Support the use of ‘daunting’ academic library
- Project mainstreamed

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Theme One – Transitions Peer Assisted Learning

- Built upon peer mentoring – Art, Design & Architecture
- US model ‘Supplementary Instruction’
- Year 1 – PAL Sessions
- Year 2 – PAL Leader
- Year 3/4 – PAL Co-ordinator
- Piloted in Business, Humanities, Health, Politics
- Inspirational PAL packs

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Theme One – Transitions
Peer Assisted Learning

Peer Assisted Learning (PAL)

Karrena Powell - Interior Design

"The PAL Scheme is an interesting proactive initiative that encourages students to talk to and help each other. Our sessions are informal gatherings where we discuss various topics that the students feel they need more support on. We give the students control and a useful tool to peer observation and advice from peers when they may have a problem. I have been thanked and talked to the first years for being helpful and understanding and have had a few that have been inspired in the session about their work.

As a Peer Leader I try to encourage and facilitate the first years to communicate with each other in a variety of ways about a variety of subjects that are important to them. The sessions provide an alternative solution from a previous student point of view. In case they don't want to approach lecturers or would rather have a quiet motivating session rather than a large formal lecture.

I enjoy being a Peer Leader on my course because it encourages me to make more in the studio not only with the first year but also the final years. The PAL Scheme is helping me to develop as a leader and critical thinker which is extremely useful in my future career.

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100% felt role of student co-ordinator will benefit CV and employability.

‘I have always enjoyed project management, and as Student co-ordinator supporting Peer leaders I have effectively been managing a part of the scheme. I have trained 21 peer leaders, carefully managing how much information to give out and to whom.’
Theme Two – Creativity and Innovation
Employer Engagement

• Theme based in school with a strong practical focus
• Cross theme collaboration
• Building upon expertise
• Based in School of Computing and Engineering
• More placements, KTPs and employers on course boards.
Theme Two – Creativity and Innovation
Art, Design and Architecture Networks

- Portfolio Careers
- First steps on ladder
- Strong links with industry
- Conran, Sony, Microsoft, Brandt
- Work experience and a way in

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Theme Two – Creativity and Innovation
Art, Design and Architecture Networks

LECTURE SERIES [ada]network

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Theme Three – Researching T&L and its Link to Practice – Drama Creativity

- Careers opportunities
- Performed lectures
- Patrick Stewart
- Working with Clients – T&L, TQEF
- Workshops for staff
- Accountancy ‘professional skills’

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Theme Four – The Wider Community Volunteering

- Seven years, staff and students
- Recognised work experience
- Community links
- Accredited model

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Theme Four – The Wider Community
South Asian Arts

- ‘New’ music students
- Community links
- Whole class tuition
- Project manage events

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Extra Mile Awards

- Initiate in 2006
- Student nominated, now includes staff scheme
- Partnerships: Hospitality, Art and Design
- 300 nominations in 2009
- Reward staff
- Mainstreamed

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Extra Mile Awards

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Placements Project

- Impact jobs, salaries, and grades
- DVD produced
- Placement Journeys
Conclusions

- ‘Real-life’ skills
- Employability
- Innovative
Any questions?

Lisa Ward
00 44 1484 47 3085
L.Ward@hud.ac.uk

Jane Gaffikin
j.gaffikin3@hud.ac.uk

Website: www.hud.ac.uk/tqef

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