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Placements Down Under

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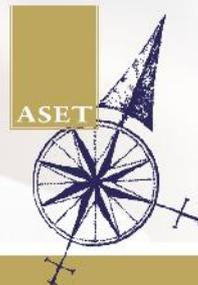
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ASET e-Bulletin

December 2012

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Seasons Greetings from a chilly Sheffield!

Just as we are all pulling on another layer, I am pleased to present the first in our series of ASET Trustees’ articles; a report by **Lisa Ward**, from the ACEN Conference in Australia. I can’t promise we can match their weather, but hopefully we can equal their hospitality at the ASET conference next year (see below). Don’t forget we are keen to share news of your events and experiences that will add to best practice for everyone, so do get in touch via the ASET office to have an item included in the next e-bulletin in January aset@asetonline.org , and until then, enjoy your break.

Debbie Siva-Jothy

Placements Down Under by Lisa Ward

A couple of weeks ago, I was fortunate to be able to participate in the Australian Collaborative Education Network (ACEN) conference in Geelong, Australia. (ACEN is the Australian equivalent of ASET).

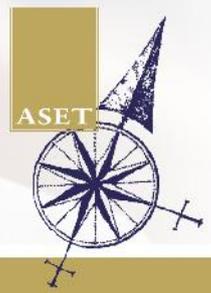


Now that’s what I call a breakfast meeting!

Ahead of the main conference I was invited to take part in ACEN’s Research conference at Victoria University in Melbourne, where 50 delegates from; 25 Australian, 5 New Zealand, 3 Canadian and Swedish, and one UK university, discussed a range

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of contemporary issues in Placements or Work Integrated Learning (WIL), as it is known in Australia and much of the world.

Each of the discussion groups fed back to an expert panel, which included Suzie Hewlett the General Manager of the Office for Learning and Teaching, which has taken over much of the work started by the recently disbanded Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC), and like the HEA in the UK, they support the sector. Several bids for OLT are expected to follow the workshop.

The main ACEN conference then moved down to Deakin University's waterfront campus at Geelong. With 54 peer-reviewed (37 research) papers, alongside plenty of other workshops and papers, ACEN justified its growing reputation as the leading conference for WIL research. (In 2009 WACE World Conference in Vancouver offered 32 peer refereed papers, 7 from the UK and 13 from Australia).



Research Paper winners

This year's winning conference paper, decided unanimously by the judges, was the groundbreaking;

'The ACEN Student Scholarship: a profile of financial hardship and WIL'

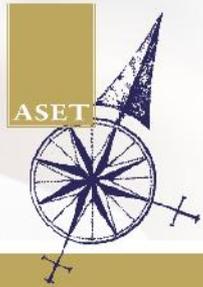
by Keri Moore, Sonia Ferns and Deborah Peach.

This paper is available for download at: <http://acen.edu.au/2012conference/proceedings/>

I was delighted to have an active role at the conference, presenting a peer-refereed paper, co-presenting another paper and also chairing a session. I also represented ASET as part of an international panel from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the World Association discussing: 'International Trends, challenges and issues in WIL'.

Highlights of the conference included:

- Ruth Wallace, the Director of the Northern Institute, Charles Darwin University, who spoke about learning partnerships in remote workplaces; exploring the identities of aboriginal people, educators and industry in work-based learning. Although Ruth's flight had been cancelled the previous day, her presentation was delivered by Skype, which worked really well
- Professor Beverley Oliver, PVC Learning Futures at Deakin University who gave an excellent keynote on WIL in the cloud. Her engaging presentation gave lots of practical examples about how cloud computing is changing the



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way we learn and work. She passed on an anecdote about her mother, based over 2000 miles away in Western Australia, sharing dinner and wine via Skype. She also told us of the £7 million development budget she had for T&L at Deakin University, an amount which many UK universities could only dream about.



Networking at Deakin University, Geelong

ACEN also supports staff research grants and I went to the presentations about this year’s research, including one of the practical solutions to the complexities of combining WIL and professional bodies’ regulations in midwifery. My Australian hosts were very welcoming, inviting me to a traditional Aussie BBQ and an international delegate welcome dinner. The conference dinner, hosted on the waterfront at Geelong, had the Australian tradition of alternating main courses: one gets chicken, the next lamb – it’s the luck of the draw. It also had the first disco I’ve ever been to where you dance between courses.

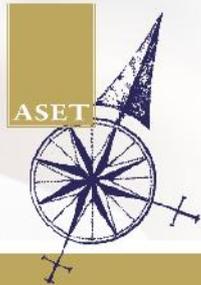
I learned so much and came brimming back with ideas for future work and collaborations.

The next ACEN conference is on the Gold Coast in 2014.

Lisa Ward, Head of the Teaching and Learning Institute and a University Teaching Fellow at the University of Huddersfield, and, ASET Executive Committee member and Chair of the ASET International Placement and Collaboration network.

2013 ASET Research Bursary

The 2013 ASET Research Bursary was launched on 21st November. We appreciate your support to promote this opportunity for funding in your institution. I hope that you have all seen the flyer but just in case, a copy is attached with this bulletin and you can see a preview below.



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The closing date for applications is 31st January 2013.

NB. Proposals considered from ASET member institutions only



2013 ASET Research Bursary

For Research into Placement or Work-Based Learning

ASET is pleased to announce our second **Research Bursary**, inviting proposals from supervisors to fund an undergraduate or recent graduate to carry out a clearly defined piece of **research into work-based or placement learning**.

ASET will provide a bursary of **£1500** for the student to carry out the planned work, of approximately 300 hours; a further **£500** towards the expenses required to carry out the work will be awarded to the institution upon successful completion. The student will be visited by a member of the ASET Practice and Research Group (PRG) during the planned placement period. The successful applicant must supervise the student's work, and co-present the final report at the ASET conference.

Timing

It is expected that applications will specify a plan of the work (see Criteria below for more details), which should commit the student to 300 hours of work, during which time supervision must be available for at least 200 of the 300 hours.

Eligibility

Proposals can only be considered from those institutions which are members of ASET for 2013. A full and current membership list is available here: www.asetonline.org/membership.htm#currentmembers . If successful you must recruit an undergraduate or recent graduate from your own institution.

Criteria

Proposals are limited to **1000 words** and must cover:



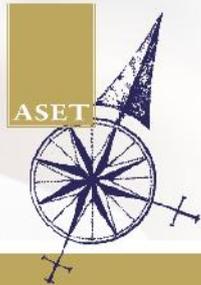
2012 ASET Student Competition

The **closing date** is fast approaching for this year's student competition:

Friday 4th January 2013

We would really appreciate your help to promote this competition to all your students who have returned from a placement in the academic year 2011/2012. They have an opportunity to **win £500** by reflecting on their placement in a short essay (up to 900 words). This competition is only open to students enrolled at ASET member institutions.

A preview can be seen below and is also attached to this bulletin.



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2012 ASET Student Competition
Your Chance to win £500

Interested in writing about your placement experience to persuade others of the benefits of integrating Work and learning? If you can articulate, in 700 words, your experiences from your recent placement, you could win £500. We are looking for short essays which have the ability to inform others about the value of placement experience, clearly express the value of your learning and do so in a lively and enthusiastic manner.

ASET is the Work Based and Placement Learning Association and our aim is to promote the benefits of integrating work and learning. We will use extracts from the entries on our website and in publicity material for students and placement staff, for them to highlight to future students the value of such opportunities.

ASET Staff Development Programme

The complete programme for 2013 is yet to be fully confirmed, but the following date has been set and **bookings are now open**. To reserve your place contact the ASET office aset@asetonline.org / 0114 234 5197.

An Introduction to Work Placement Management

University College London

Friday 22nd March (10am – 4pm)

ASET Members £155/non-members £180

This session will provide guidance for the management and support of work placements. Participants will be furnished with a basis from which they can develop their own plans and manage the day-to-day problems likely to be faced in their jobs. This is aimed at work placement managers, officers, administrators and academic placement tutors, particularly those with little experience who are new to their role, about to be appointed, or wanting a refresher course. This session is designed to introduce all the fundamental aspects of working in the field. The workshop is intended to be flexible and responsive to participants' needs and interests and therefore emphasis may vary between topics.

LAST DAY FOR BOOKING: Friday 15th March



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ASET Conference 2013

The 2013 ASET Conference will be held from 3rd – 5th September at:

University of Greenwich, Greenwich Campus



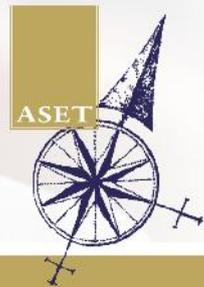
A World Heritage site, the campus is set within the grounds of the Old Royal Naval College on the banks of the River Thames. The conference will be based in Queen Anne Court, (above left), one of three baroque buildings designed by Sir Christopher Wren at the end of the 17th Century. The recently restored and re-opened Cutty Sark is within easy walking distance (less than 3 minutes walk across the lawns) as are the Maritime Museum, the Royal Observatory and Royal Greenwich Park.

Conference at University of Huddersfield

The University of Huddersfield's Business school will be holding a 1 day conference in July 2013. The "Call for Papers" is detailed below.

**Enhancing Employability through Placements in Higher Education
Tuesday 9 July 2013
The University of Huddersfield Business School**

A one day conference hosted by The University of Huddersfield's Business School to showcase current research and practice on work placements in higher education. The benefits of undergraduate placements are well established with students experiencing improved degree classifications, higher employment rates upon graduation and a greater degree of self confidence in choosing a career. Engaging students with the placement process can be a challenge though, particularly with the recent economic climate increasing competition in the placement job market and students not wishing to extend their studies beyond the standard three academic years. Higher Education institutions offer a range of initiatives and interventions encouraging and supporting undergraduates in the placement process and this one day workshop is an opportunity to share good practice.



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Call for presentations

We are inviting proposals for 30 minute presentations (including 10 minutes for questions) addressing the theme of the conference 'Enhancing Employability through Placements in Higher Education'.

A multi-disciplinary approach is being taken with projects being welcome from all academic areas and service providers within the university sector. To be considered please submit a 300 word abstract to businesssevents@hud.ac.uk by **Friday 8 February 2012** in the following format:

- Title of the presentation which is clear and explicit
- Identify the aim and intentions of the session
- Outline the findings being presented during the session
- The abstract will demonstrate how the presentation addresses the conference title

Abstracts will be reviewed and proposers notified of the outcome by **Friday 12 April 2013**.

ASET Membership 2013

ASET membership runs from 1st January to 31st December. Renewal invoices will be issued in January. Membership for your institution for 2013 will be £195, which entitles all members of staff to access ASET benefits including, discount on workshops and annual conference, access to the LinkedIn Placement and Employability Professionals network (apply to join here : www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=1929302) and regular bulletins. Once again I will be seeking to update the ASET contacts list for all member institutions, so if you would like to be added to the listing please get in touch aset@asetonline.org .

And don't forget....

If you would like to see your news here next month – get in touch with Debbie at the ASET Office aset@asetonline.org