



University of **HUDDERSFIELD**

University of Huddersfield Repository

Brooks, Ruth

Students as Educators and Mentors: increasing awareness of the benefits and participation in sandwich placements

Original Citation

Brooks, Ruth (2013) Students as Educators and Mentors: increasing awareness of the benefits and participation in sandwich placements. In: Higher Education Academy Annual Conference, 3-4 July 2013, The University of Warwick. (Unpublished)

This version is available at <http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/18200/>

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

- The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
- A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
- The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk.

<http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/>

HEA

Conference

Inspiring tomorrow's professionals



University of
HUDDERSFIELD

Ruth Brooks

Business Management Course Leader

r.brooks@hud.ac.uk



Students as educators and mentors:

increasing awareness of the benefits and participation in sandwich placements

Inspiring tomorrow's professionals



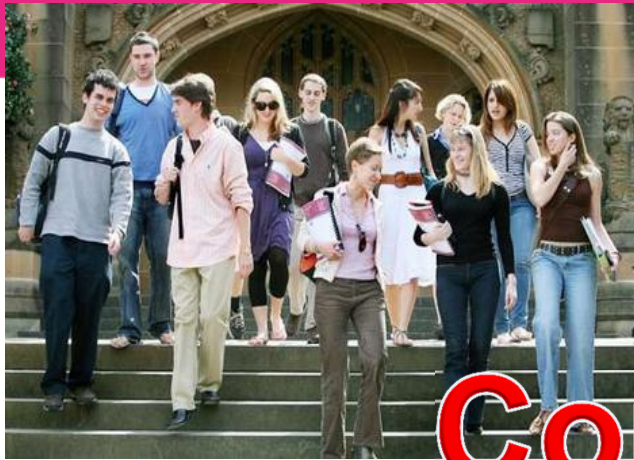
High Fliers (2013)



Among top 100 graduate recruiters:

- Third of jobs will be filled by graduates who have already worked for the organisation
- 4/5ths of these companies offer paid work experience programmes
- Without work experience graduates are unlikely to be successful during the selection process.

Inspiring tomorrow's professionals



Competitive



Work experience while studying

- Part time work
- Voluntary work
- Internships
- Embedded into the curriculum
- Sandwich placements – up to 48 weeks



Taking a placement:

1. Improves academic performance
2. 50% more likely to obtain graduate level work
3. Earn £2000 more on average



HEA Individual Teaching Grant



- Project aim:
- To improve awareness of placements and their benefits to increase participation

Inspiring tomorrow's professionals



Why?

- Long term benefits but take up rate low
- Students from narrow background
- Improve understanding of the benefits to increase participation rates
- Government agenda

- National uptake declined from 9.5% 2002/3 to 7.2% 2009/10
- (Education for Engineering, 2011)
- Response?

Placements students see it as a:



Inspiring tomorrow's professionals

Supported by the placement unit



Inspiring tomorrow's professionals

- Using former placement students as educators and mentors
- Speak from personal experience
- Similar age and life position
- Powerful influence in addition to tutor
- (Allen and Eby, 2010)

Start at open day



Inspiring tomorrow's professionals

Ongoing mentoring



- Classroom sessions
- Lunchtime briefing for all students registered for a placement
- Email contact
- Interview advice

<http://ugradplacements.hud.ac.uk>



Inspiring tomorrow's professionals



Placement Conference



Enhancing Employability through Placements in Higher Education

10am to 3pm - Tuesday 9 July 2013

The University of Huddersfield Business School

The benefits of undergraduate placements are well established, however, in the present economic climate, engaging students in the placement process is becoming a greater challenge. We invite you to attend our one-day conference to share good practice in the initiatives and interventions Higher Education institutions offer to support and encourage undergraduates in this process.

The conference will include:

- Keynote address from RateMyPlacement who will share insights, shocking statistics and best practice on how to ensure students will become hooked on securing that all important work experience
- Keynote address from Judie Kay (RMIT University, Australia) & Norah McRae (University of Victoria, Canada) who will discuss national perspectives of Work Integrated Learning and review the trends and issues in their respective countries
- Four open presentations with a choice of workshops to attend, delivered by speakers from a number of universities from across the UK
- A Placement Student, Employer & Graduate panel to discuss personal experiences and perspectives to aid future placement processes

The conference is **FREE** to attend and refreshments and a light-lunch will be provided



For further information and bookings click on the picture above or visit:

www.hud.ac.uk/uhs/businessschool-events/enhancingemployability

For enquiries:
Email: businessevents@hud.ac.uk
Telephone: 01484 472026

Inspiring tomorrow's professionals

Inspiring tomorrow's professionals

Impact?



- The number of students already securing placements is 50% higher than last year
- The quality of placement is improving

Future Developments

- Increase the number of students taking placements
- Wider social and ethnic backgrounds
- Better career planning by students throughout their studies

Inspiring tomorrow's professionals



References



- Allen, T.D. and Eby, L.T. (2010) *The Blackwell handbook of mentoring: a multiple perspectives approach* Oxford: Blackwell.
- Education for Engineering (2011) *Sandwich Courses in Higher Education A report on current provision and an analysis of barriers to increasing participation* [online]. Available at:
http://www.educationforengineering.org.uk/policy/pdfs/Sandwich_course_report.pdf
- High Fliers (2013) *The Graduate Market in 2013* [online]
<http://www.highfliers.co.uk/download/GMReport13.pdf>
- Youngson, P.L. and Brooks, R. (2013) 'The perceived benefits of a sandwich work placement year within an undergraduate study programme' (unpublished)