



newsletter

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ACCREDITATION OF SANDWICH PLACEMENTS

The Licentiateship of City and Guilds of London (LCGI) is one of the range of Senior Awards offered by City and Guilds, or by approved Higher Education Institutions through the power of Delegated Authority. As the first such authority in the country, Coventry University has been developing the use of the City and Guilds Senior Awards during the last five years. The three awards which are most relevant to Higher Education are the Licentiateship, Graduateship (GCGI) and Membership (MCGI), and each is designed to recognise a range of professional level skills in a working environment, broadly covering levels from second year undergraduate to postgraduate.

As such, for an institution which is seeking to accredit work-based learning they offer an interesting alternative to the often difficult issues surrounding the awarding of academic credit within a degree or other institutional award.

The particular difficulty surrounding the accreditation of Sandwich Placements means that for us at Coventry, Licentiateship is an idea worth looking at.

We began the experiment some five years ago with a single cohort of students from within one degree programme, the BA in Equine Studies. This programme had a well developed assessment regime, and was broadly in line with the requirements of what at that time was a new Coventry University Code of Practice for Sandwich Placements. This Code covered such things as the process of briefing and debriefing students, the involvement of employers, the setting of objectives for placements, as well as appropriate assessment schedules. The BA in Equine Studies had all these features. After several cohorts of students from within the same course, we are now beginning to interest other departments in the University, and from next year the BA in Geography, the BSc in Engineering Design and the BSc in Maths and Computing will all be offering the LCGI as a route to accreditation.

Until now, the assessment of student portfolios has been carried out centrally, as an additional process to that conducted at local level by the placement tutors, (and thus at an additional cost to the students). From this year onwards however, the assessments will have to be managed as an integral part of the

placement assessment and this will reduce the fee for students to that required by City and Guilds for certification, currently £35.00. (We have interested at least one of the above programmes in paying this fee for students, as a measure of added value to their programme; other HEIs offering LCGI have done the same.)

The debate continues around the other alternatives, credit inside the degree, University Certification (e.g. Certificate of Professional Studies), other national certification, NVQ units etc., and ASET will be airing this debate more fully in its Autumn conference: The Accreditation of Work Placements (see the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter).

Anyone interested in exploring the current practice in respect of Licentiateship should contact City and Guilds Senior Awards Division in Gilt Spur Street, London, and then perhaps talk to other Delegated Authority HEIs for the view from the ground. And of course register for the Autumn conference!

WORLD WIDE WEB

Please take a moment to visit our new web site www.edu.coventry.ac.uk/ASET/ kindly hosted by Coventry University. The pages currently contain contact and membership information, details of forthcoming events and the most recent newsletter. In the very near future, the site will provide on-line access to our database of sandwich courses and contact names throughout the UK.

We are also building up a resources page which contains links to other web sites which are of interest to our members.

If you have any suggestions or comments about these pages, please click on the email link on the ASET home page and send us a message.

www.edu.coventry.ac.uk/ASET/

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