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The ASET autumn workshop programme is off to a great start and there are now only a few places left on the **Supporting Disabled Students on Placement** workshop in London on **11th December** (see below). Don't forget to let me know about any events or news you would like to share with your ASET colleagues, so I can include in the next e-bulletin, send to: aset@asetonline.org

Debbie Siva-Jothy

ASET Bursaries 2015

By Emily Timson, University of Leeds

Launched in 2011, the **ASET Research Student Bursary** offers funding for a summer placement student to carry out small-scale research, related to work based and placement learning. From the outset the bursary attracted a great deal of attention, and some interesting project proposals. The first bursary was awarded to Helene Turley, *University of Wolverhampton*, for her project looking at the 'Pros and Cons of Central Placement Units in UK Universities'. The project findings were presented by placement student, Olabimpe Foluso, at the 2012 Conference, and were influential in the decision for University of Wolverhampton to develop a Central Placement Unit later that year. The project also proved to be a stimulus to applications for the next year, and in 2013, prompted by feedback from our members, a second Bursary was offered - the **ASET Exploration and Enhancement (E&E) Student Bursary**. Distinct from the Research Bursary, the E&E Bursary is offered to enable institutions to explore themes, ideas and innovative practice exploration, in and around work based learning.

In the world of employability, I find that I'm never short of ideas (nor are other people!), however, what is often in short supply, is time, and the resource, to execute these ideas effectively. The ASET bursaries enable an institution to turn these ideas, proposals, and

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topics into live projects – which can have a really positive impact for the future.

Both bursaries provide £2000 for a summer placement student to carry out the work, and £500 towards expenses for the institution.

In my first year as an ASET Trustee, I was delighted to have the opportunity to take a lead on the **ASET Exploration and Enhancement Student Bursary**, also in its inaugural year. From the outset it was clear that this too would be a popular award, and when two strong projects were identified, the decision was taken by the ASET Board of Trustees **to award two E&E bursaries**.

Both recipients, whilst exploring very different themes, were exploring topics that would resonate with many of us. The first sought to identify the **uptake of summer internships**, *University of Sheffield*, which can be notoriously hard to track – with the other seeking to **run a pilot mentoring scheme**, *Sheffield Hallam University*.

What was interesting was that as thorough as each recipient had been with regards to developing a comprehensive work plan, timeline for activity, and where possible had anticipated issues - both projects had to adjust along the way. This was to cope with circumstances that had not been anticipated. The bursaries are flexible, and fully acknowledge that as the project is researched the outcome could become very different to that which was anticipated. For example, the Sheffield Hallam University project, which sought to identify the benefits of a work shadowing programme through running a pilot, met with a challenge to running the pilot - a lack of commitment from employers to take part - something which hadn't been expected during the planning process. The experience of adjusting to these factors perhaps can offer greater learning to others seeking to adopt this approach, than if the projects went to plan.

Both bursaries are well supported along the way by ASET, focused around agreed catch up points – and importantly for the student involved, an opportunity to receive additional feedback on their work to date. Some of you may have seen the students not only had an opportunity to attend the conference, to present their work to delegates, but also to create a poster detailing their findings, and act as a stimulus to discussion and networking throughout conference. Seeing the students present their reports really highlighted to me the benefits of each bursary. The host institution is able to explore ideas and themes which without funding may not be possible, the student gains all important work experience and skills, and finally other institutions are able to learn from the work carried out, and utilise the project information for their benefit also.

Like many of you perhaps, I had previously engaged with ASET through conferences, LinkedIn discussions, training courses and utilisation of best practice guides, all of which are great member benefits. My experience in the last year with the ASET E&E Bursary, has highlighted to me what a great members' benefit it is, although, as a relatively new scheme, it doesn't yet receive the attention it deserves.

So, if you're keen to test an idea out, or have a project that requires further support – or need to investigate the possibility of a scheme. Open only to ASET member institutions, why not make an application? There is so much to be gained from taking part.

Save the Date – ASET Conference 2015

The next ASET Annual Conference will be **8th – 10th September 2015**.



Further details to follow shortly.

ASET Staff Development Programme

The staff development programme is now well underway, but there is still time to book for the December workshop. If you haven't yet booked your place please contact the ASET office for a booking form aset@asetonline.org

Supporting Disabled Students on Placement

University College London

Thursday 11th December (10am – 4pm)

£155 ASET members/£180 non members

The aim of this workshop is to provide advice and guidance on the support of disabled students to those working in work experience and placement roles. The following topics will be covered:

- An overview of the Equality Act, how does it help disabled placement students and how can you help employers interpret and understand what the Act means?
- Guidance on assisting students with disclosure in the recruitment process. Should they disclose or not? If so, how and when should they disclose?
- Case study examples to highlight placement success stories
- Further resources and support available

Please note the last day for booking on this workshop is Monday 1st December

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Win £500

Have you alerted all your students who completed a placement in the academic year 2013-14 ?

ASET Student Competition 2014

The £500 prize should be a good incentive, and we hope you will encourage all to enter. A flyer for the competition is attached with this e-bulletin, so please do forward to one and all.

The **deadline for entries is Friday 9th January 2015**.



ASET Membership 2015

It's that time of year again.....

ASET Membership invoices for 2015 will be winging their way to your institutions shortly. Rates have been held for next year, and continue to offer great value for money for all members of staff at your institution, so do make sure you are getting the most out of your membership.

- Are you in the ASET LinkedIn community? Why not [JOIN](#) now?
- Or how about one of our specialist LinkedIn Groups
 - Equality
 - Post Graduate Placements
 - Practice Informed Research
 - International Placements
- ASET Bursaries – why not apply?
- ASET Student Competition – how many of your students have entered this year?
- Free publications – do you have your copies?

And lots more to come in 2015.....

WACE 2015

Our colleagues at WACE are gearing up for the next conference which is to be held in the beautiful city of Kyoto next August. Please see below the **call for abstracts**:

AUGUST 18-21, 2015 KYOTO, JAPAN

"Towards a New Stage of Cooperative and Work-Integrated Education for Innovative Minds with Global Competency"

The **KSU-WACE Organizing Committee for the 19th World Conference** hosted by **Kyoto Sangyo University** in August of 2015 is pleased to announce the **Call for Abstracts**. The 19th World Conference promises to be a robust mixture of best practices in CWIE as well as cutting edge research in the field. Building upon the success of previous World Conferences, the Organizing Committee seeks to expand the participation of the global CWIE network by offering more opportunities to attend and present. Please review the information in the Call of Abstracts for specific information that matches your interests.



Kyoto Sangyo University is the host for the 19th World Conference. It will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary as a university and is eager to share their campus and history with the people attending the conference. The city of Kyoto, which was the capital city of Japan for over 1000 years, has a rich and vibrant culture of religion, museums, education, the arts and world class cuisine. Kyoto, with a population of close to 1.5 million people, is a favorite destination for tourists each year.

WACE and Kyoto Sangyo University encourage you to be part of this event. Submit an abstract, present and enjoy the WACE 19th World Conference at Kyoto Sangyo University August 2015.

There is a **"Rolling Review & Acceptance"** for all submitted abstracts. You will receive notification of your abstract's status from the WACE Secretariat within two weeks of your original submission.

Please do not submit more than one abstract as the Main Presenter (although you can be included as a Supporting Presenter for other presentations). We would like to encourage and allow as many people as possible to present a session. Thank you for your cooperation!

ABSTRACT CATEGORIES

Abstracts should be 250 words; please see **ABSTRACT SUBMISSION LINK** on WACE WORLD CONFERENCE webpage for form & criteria.

We will be accepting abstracts from the six following categories:

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1. **Refereed Research Paper (Quantitative or Qualitative)**
2. **Refereed Discussion Paper**
3. **Non-Refereed Paper Presentation**
4. **Panel Session**
5. **Workshop Session**
6. **Academic Poster Presentation**

** Please note the earlier submission deadline of April 1, 2015 for Refereed Paper Abstracts in the below description. There will be no deadline extensions or exceptions for the Refereed Paper process.*

For further information, and a detailed outline of submissions under each category please visit the WACE website www.waceinc.org

Spotlight on Research

Pan-European research finds quality work experience vital to improve sports graduate employability

A survey of sports graduates and employers across six European countries has revealed conflicting perceptions of graduate employability, according to new research by the Employability of Graduates in Sport (EGS) project. The study, carried out by the Interventions4Health team at the University of Gloucestershire along with five European partners, found that work experience and placements, along with self-reflection and self-awareness, were considered important skills for improving graduate employability amongst both graduates and their employers. However, just 60.4% of employers agreed that sport graduates met their expectations. The results highlighted the need for Higher Education institutions to provide quality work placements and volunteer opportunities within the curriculum. More than half of respondents also stated that sport graduates need more support.

The research was led by Professor Diane Crone, Professor of Exercise Science at the University of Gloucestershire, who said: "Our findings show that sports graduate skills across Europe are not meeting employer expectations. Employers value work experience and, although some countries including the UK offer good opportunities for work placements and work experience, other countries across Europe do not appear to have these to the same extent. As a result of these findings, we will be developing an EU toolkit available in six languages. We have also established formal networking events between employers and Higher Education institutions to build stronger relations between; educational institutions, employers who employ the graduates, and the graduates themselves, that ensure work experience, work placement and volunteer opportunities are embedded in curricula to maximise opportunities and impact." For more information, please see the project website: <http://egsproject.moonfruit.com/>

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And don't forget....

If you would like to see your news here next month – get in touch via the ASET Office.
(Copy deadline Friday 12th December.)