

ASET e-Bulletin

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ASET

The Work Based and Placement Learning
Association
The Burton Street Foundation
57 Burton Street
Sheffield S6 2HH

0114 234 5197
aset@asetonline.org
@ASETOnline

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We are pleased to announce the results of this year's ASET Student Competition and to thank you for encouraging your students to enter. Details of this year's winners can be found below and will soon be on our website.

Do get in touch via the ASET office to have an item included in next month's news bulletin.

Debbie Siva-Jothy
aset@asetonline.org
www.asetonline.org

Celebration of Placements!

Becky Jones, ASET Trustee, Deputy Faculty Operating Officer, Epidemiology and Population Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

"Life-changing improvement in confidence" and "the best decision I've ever made" – just two phrases that appeared in one form or another in many of the ASET student competition entries this year; it has once again been an enormous privilege and pleasure to lead the team of ASET judges assessing the entries.

You may have heard Stephen Isherwood, Chief Executive of the Association of Graduate Recruiters, on Radio 4 and in the press recently pointing out that giving students the opportunity to undertake work experience and all importantly "de-code" what that means to them, is fundamentally essential to their education and to making them employable. The ASET student competition, which has been running for more than 30 years, focusses on just that – giving students the opportunity to reflect on their experience, and how best to apply it to enhance their employability. The competition is launched each year at conference, with the deadline of early January.

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This year we extended the prizes for each category, Home and International, to include a Highly Commended prize of £100 as well as the winner's prize of £400. We were genuinely thrilled to read about the students' experiences – gained in a wonderful array of areas from piglet nutrition, recruitment, to refitting naval vessels, in locations ranging from their university town, to pastures new – be that Ipswich or Edinburgh, New York or Sydney!

As judges, we were impressed this year by the increase in the range of courses competition entries came from – as well as the anticipated entries from students of Engineering, Marketing and Biomedical Sciences, it was interesting to see more placement activity in the Humanities including Communication Design, Politics, Events Management and Liberal Arts.

The professional and personal development reflections evidenced in all the entries are a tremendous testament to the transformative nature of many work placements. Also clear was a recognition and appreciation of how great an opportunity it had been to undertake work experience. As a placement community, we should take a moment to be proud to play a role in facilitating that. As stressful as it can be chasing students down (especially at this time of year) who may be becoming despondent trying to find the right placement for them, or wondering if they are fully committed to it, Stephen's comments were a timely reminder – it is about transforming a student's life and prospects.

It is a privilege to listen to the stories. Through the placement experience students have been able to decided what role and industry they want, or even don't want to work in, have gained a graduate job offer (relieving some of the pressure in their final year) or more fundamentally, have discovered who they are, or what their strengths are. There can be no doubt that the placement experience is now a critical part of the university experience. All the competition entrants recognised they had gained so much from their experiences, and I'm sure future employers will appreciate their self-awareness in their application forms. It was a really close call, as there were some exceptionally strong entries – my fellow judges and I wish there were many more prizes, but we are pleased to announce the winners below – drum roll please...

RESULTS

UK or Ireland - Winner	Harvey Steele	<i>Loughborough University</i>
- Highly Commended	Sophie Hazelden	<i>Nottingham Trent University</i>
International - Winner	Nikita Crane	<i>Sheffield Hallam University</i>
- Highly Commended	Victoria Powell	<i>Glasgow University</i>

We'd love to see even more submissions next year – particularly in the International category, a hot topic for 2017, and a focus for our ASET conference in September. Don't forget to set up a reminder to highlight the competition as part of your 'Welcome back to Campus' talks for returning placement students and you could see their names here next year as cash prize winners you have supported in their reflection process.

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It was such a boost to hear Stephen say “the most employable graduates are those who do placement years or sandwich courses – they are the most likely to get work and tend to perform better in the workplace”. We’ve much to celebrate.

ASET Student Competition Judges

Becky Jones, Deputy Faculty Operating Officer, Epidemiology and Population Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Amanda Monteiro, Employability and Accreditations Manager, Business School, Canterbury Christchurch University

Vianna Renaud, Placement Development Advisor, Bournemouth University

2017 ASET Conference

Don't miss this year's [Call for Papers](#) and **new online submission process**:

Submitting an abstract - NEW FOR 2017

To submit an abstract for this year's conference, **you must use the conference submission form** which is available to download, together with the terms and conditions, from <http://www.asetonline.org/events/annual-conference/>

Submit to ASET (aset@asetonline.org) by **Friday 19th May 2017**

2017 ASET Conference

Preparing Students for the Global Workplace

5th – 7th September



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Conference has a global theme this year, and will fittingly be held at University of Kent, the UK's European University.

As you know, our conferences are renowned for being participatory and providing delegates with many opportunities to find out about new initiatives, projects and good practice, and this year will be no exception. Conference 2017 will consider our role in **Preparing Students for the Global Workplace**, acknowledging that placements can play a key role in supporting students to work in multinational and multicultural organisations both within the UK and across the world. Conference will include roundtable discussion sessions on the conference theme, and updates from ASET on the policy landscape as we move to a UK outside the EU.

Conference will focus on:

- What will global workplaces look like in 2020?
- How can we provide global exposure to UK based students?
- What does “employability” look like in different countries and cultures?
- What are the challenges of running global work experience programmes?
- What does work based and placement learning look like in different countries?

Contributions welcome

Contributions are invited under **any** placement or employability related topic, though in order to provide a framework for the conference, **submissions around the main conference theme will be prioritised. Presenter discount is available for full conference bookings.** You may submit a synopsis for a contribution under any of the following categories:



Workshops

Workshop sessions will be approximately 45 minutes long and should be designed to be participatory in nature - the presentation element of the workshop should be no longer than 20 minutes, allowing for discussion and activities to follow.



Research papers

Sessions for research papers will be approximately 45 minutes long and any presentation element of the session should be no longer than 30 minutes to allow for colleagues to ask questions and discuss the research presented.

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Posters

Posters are welcome for display in the exhibition circulation area, and for discussion during the poster breakout sessions adjacent to conference refreshment breaks.

NEW for 2017 Delegates will vote to award a prize for the best poster.

Spring Regional Hub Meetings

*Regional Hub meetings are **free events** for ASET member institutions. Places are limited and allocated on a first come first served basis. Up to **two** delegates per institution may register.*

The next round of ASET Regional Hub meetings will be held around Easter, and offer the opportunity to get together with colleagues and discuss a topic that has become part of our everyday conversations as practitioners - **Student Resilience**. The hubs will focus on aspects relating to the capacity to secure a placement, and how students invest that experience when they graduate.

Hub dates

- South East 12th April 10-12pm, *City, University of London*
- North 13th April 10-12pm, *University of Salford*
- South West 19th April 2-4pm, *Cardiff University*

Student Resilience impacts across the whole student experience, linking to wellbeing and happiness, motivation and academic performance. Developing resilience is a key competency for students, and essential preparation for 'readiness for work' and for the experiences they are likely to face in their working life: stress, challenging workloads and people, finding a work life balance, changing job market, pressure to perform.

Resilience can be regarded as: the ability to bounce back after rejection, recover from stressful situations, having the capacity to achieve your goals/career objectives despite adversary conditions, drive and motivation.

Discussions

- How have your students shown resilience/lack of resilience when it comes to thinking about and securing a placement and why do you think this is?
- How can we help build resilience in our students – identifying initiatives which can be embedded within modules, learning activities and assessment tasks, extra curricula activities? Have you tried any approaches that have worked /didn't work?
- How could we engage employers to support us with these challenges?

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- As practitioners what is the limit of what we can do and what alternative ideas could we signpost the students to, if the process of finding a placement alongside their studies starts to cause undue stress and anxiety which may affect their overall wellbeing?
- Who should we be getting support/help/advice from in addressing this complex issue?

Each hub will open with an introduction to the topic from ASET, discussions will then be led by the host institution in a collegiate and relaxed environment. The purpose of the ASET Regional Hubs is for the sharing of good practice, and challenges, and as a networking opportunity. There will also be 'Open House' time for those attending to share or raise anything of interest that is outside the main topic.

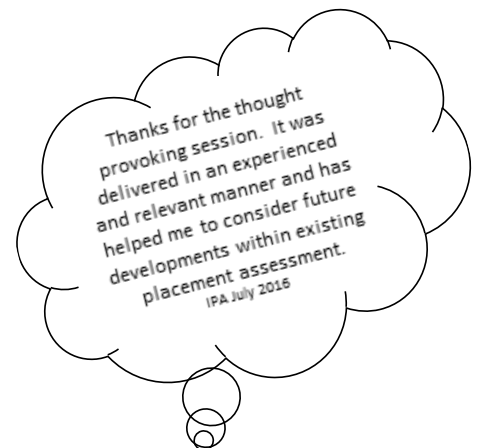
To book a place for your nearest hub meeting please contact the ASET office aset@asetonline.org

Staff Development Workshops

Our Spring programme is now in full swing. With increased capacity at some of our venues most workshops still have spaces available see [website](#) for full details and [BOOK ONLINE](#)

NB Prices held for 2017 (£165 ASET members/£195 non-members)

Workshop Programme at a glance



Date	Location		W'shop No.	Title
21-Feb	Student Central, London		1	Risk Assessment and Due Diligence
07-Mar	Senate House, London		2	Supporting Students with Disabilities on Placement
16-Mar	ASET Offices, Sheffield		3	An Introduction to Work Placement Management
06-Apr	Senate House, London		4	Innovation in Placement Assessment
25-Apr	University of Sheffield	NEW	5	Placements for Graduates, Post Grads and PhD Students
02-May	London - Senate House		6	Developing Overseas Placements
23-May	Leeds Beckett University	NEW	7	Freelancers, Entrepreneurs and Enterprise - Placements
13-Jun	London - Senate House		8	Placements with SMEs
20-Jun	Leeds Beckett University		9	Marketing for Placements
27-Jun	Leeds Beckett University		10	Social Mobility and Placements
13-Jul	Leeds Beckett University	NEW	11	Exploring Social Media and Placements for the New and Nervous



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Bespoke Workshops

If you would like to talk about ideas for a bespoke workshop to suit a specific requirement at your institution, contact Debbie at the ASET Office aset@asetonline.org.

Placement Vacancies

Please see below details for employability and placement related vacancies at ASET member institutions:

Bournemouth University

<https://www1.bournemouth.ac.uk/placement-co-ordinator-2-posts>

and

Royal Holloway, University of London:

"We're recruiting for a new Placements Officer role at Royal Holloway, in our Careers and Employability department.

The job is live on our college website " <https://jobs.royalholloway.ac.uk/vacancy.aspx?ref=0317-120>

And Finally

Your next ASET members' e-Bulletin will be issued w/c 24th April. Please forward your news/copy to aset@asetonline.org by Thursday 13th April.

Debbie Siva-Jothy aset@asetonline.org www.asetonline.org