

ASET e-Bulletin

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ASET

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The ASET Regional Hub meetings are going from strength to strength with record attendance this month. ASET Trustee, Vianna Renaud shares feedback and discussion from the South East meeting at City, University of London. Thanks to Mohson Khan, Professional Liaison Unit Manager in the School of Mathematics, Computer Science & Engineering who hosted the event and had a welcome surprise in the process (see below). Thanks also



South East Regional Hub Meeting April 2017 City, University of London

to Alex Hicks at Cardiff University and to Tim Ward at University of Salford for hosting in the South West and in the North.

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

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Spring Regional Hub Meetings: Student Resilience

Vianna Renaud, ASET Trustee, Placement Development Advisor, Bournemouth University

It was with great pleasure that I recently supported the South East Regional Hub meeting at City, University of London, on behalf of ASET. I was delighted to co-facilitate the session with Mohson Khan, Professional Liaison Unit Manager in the School of Mathematics, Computer Science & Engineering, and also to represent my own institution, Bournemouth University. With over 25 institutions and organisations represented amongst more than 40 attendees, it was a wonderful opportunity to share experiences regarding the topic of Student Resilience.

And seasoned placement staff members, it was great seeing familiar faces from some new faces and those attending their first ASET event having just recently. Within no time at all the sense of common purpose and camaraderie familiar room.

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It was clear from the outset that this was a relevant and timely topic as we were all facing similar challenges at our institutions. With the impact of the TEF and degree apprenticeships causing uncertainty for many, it was useful to think not only about the current trends in the sector, but also to hear about successful initiatives to tackle the issues around student resilience. The range of interventions was vast and clearly not a 'one size fits all' when discussing different institutional environments.

Our first general consensus was that we as practitioners need to enable students to best make the transition in their 'mindset' from student life to professional life. For most represented universities, this was being addressed and dealt with by a taught professional practice module or unit embedded within the curriculum. As the management of student expectations is so great, particularly that life when out in industry will not be like life on campus, this compulsory unit of the academic programme helped answer and dispel many myths. Another key point to come out of our discussion was the impact of the university environment, of department restructures, the implementation of LEAN measures, and a general threat of a reduction of staffing budgets. It was agreed that creativity was key, particularly how we could best utilise the valuable resource of 'returning students and their placement stories' with their younger colleagues. This ranged from having final year students present short presentations in seminars, or serving as Placement PALS, to supporting the Placements and Careers teams by spreading the news for related events to encourage participation. These ideas were also expanded to include our alumni, for mentoring students and serving as good role models, particularly with those students where role modelling is so very important, such as widening participation, international and mature students. Demonstrating the academic and professional success of both final year students and alumni, can raise aspirations and make a positive impact to students about to go out into industry.

We also discussed that while some students are great academic achievers, this does not always translate into success when out in industry. Students may be used to instant feedback, and have the same expectations from employers/the work environment. Many of the hub delegates expressed how this had directly impacted on the confidence of their students when they found out that this was not the case. The advantages of discussing 'failure' and exploring it as something positive and necessary to one's future career were agreed by all. This message is particularly important for entrepreneurship training. By engaging with, and inviting role models who are considered successful, to speak to students, the normalisation of 'failure' and the proof that multiple failures can help entrepreneurs to succeed, is an important part of developing resilience. Linking to alumni can be very useful for this.

I was so pleased to be part of such a lively debate on an important topic for all of us, and our students. The group exercises were engaging and interactive, and the opportunity to network and meet like-minded individuals in similar roles was invaluable. And if this wasn't enough to demonstrate the value of coming together with our ASET colleagues, our Hub host Mohson had a very special moment – which was a highlight of the day for him and some of the delegates. Amongst the attendees were placement staff who had actually helped Mohson when he was a placement student at City, University of London! A wonderful moment, to

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see the lasting impact of student focused placement support, particularly made all the more special as he is now in that same vital role supporting placement students.



I am very much looking forward to becoming a regular attendee and ASET support as our Regional Hub meetings develop. They are an ideal opportunity to explore topics relevant to all of us in our daily work, in a welcoming and relaxed environment, and I look forward to meeting you at an event near you later this year.

Vianna

Meeting up again: (LtoR) Vanessa Airth, London Metropolitan University, Claire Revell, Queen Mary, University of London and Mohson Khan, City, University of London

2017 ASET Conference – Speakers Announced

I am delighted to confirm the first contributors to this years conference:

Dr Sonal Minocha, *Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Global Engagement, Bournemouth University*

Stephen Isherwood, *Chief Executive, AGR*

Duncan Piper, *Managing Director, Blue Chip Leaders*

University of Kent

5th – 7th September

Preparing Students for the Global Workplace



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The University of Kent, is the UK's European University, and will be a fitting environment for our global theme. Over the next few weeks further details and a full conference programme will be published on our [website](#).

Conference booking is now open and you can [BOOK ONLINE](#) from today.

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?

We look forward to welcoming you in September.

2017 Call for Papers

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**

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:

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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.



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 be voting to award a prize for the best poster.

ASET Practice and Research Network - Spring Meeting

The first of our 2017 ASET Practice and Research Network meetings is being held in London on
Friday 12th May (10am-3pm)

Venue details: *Seminar Room, 4th Floor, Student Central (ULU Building), Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HY*

The purpose of the meeting is to share good practice, gain support and hear from a practising researcher, Dr Heli Kaatrakoski, who has worked on a range of different research projects from her PhD to smaller scale projects.

Heli completed her PhD in Adult Education at the University of Helsinki, the Centre for Research on Activity, Development and Learning CRADLE where she worked and studied for thirteen years. Her previous research has focused on formative interventions and workplace learning and development in the context of academic library work, university teaching, secondary school, elderly care, childrens' day care, road administration, vocational rehabilitation and factory work. She applies cultural-historical activity theory and developmental work research methodology in working life studies. Dr Kaatrakoski also teaches related topics at the Open University, University of Helsinki.

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Currently working at the National Centre for Universities and Business in London, Heli leads a project which aims to improve and expand our knowledge of what work experience means for employers, HE institutions and students. She will present the preliminary analysis of the conducted interviews among HR Specialists in business organisations from different sectors.

Please note that we only have a limited number of places at this session, and these will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

To book a place, or if you have any questions, please contact ASET Trustee, Francesca Walker directly at fdwalker@uclan.ac.uk

Staff Development Workshops

We have been delighted to welcome so many enthusiastic and appreciative delegates to our Spring Staff Development workshops. As ever there has been a good mix of experienced Placement staff, staff new to Placements and academics with increasing Placement responsibilities, bringing new perspectives to the topics. We are pleased to be able to offer new venues this year, with increased capacity, so if you are thinking about coming along to any of the upcoming sessions, we should still be able to accommodate you. Full details are available on our [website](#) . NB **Prices held for 2017** (£165 ASET members/£195 non-members)

[BOOK ONLINE](#)

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.

And Finally

Your next ASET members' e-Bulletin will be issued w/c 22nd May. Please forward your news/copy to aset@asetonline.org by Friday 19th April.

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