

## ASET e-Bulletin

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#### ASET

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### November 2017



November is always a busy month here at ASET HQ as we are focussed on planning for 2018 and how we can ensure you all gain full benefit from your ASET membership in the year ahead. As part of this process we are making changes to our ASET Working

Groups to allow more development opportunities, so why not see how you too can [get involved?](#)

And don't forget - the deadline is approaching for the [ASET Student Competition](#) . Have you reminded your returnees to take part? They could [win £400](#).

And how about you? If you are thinking about applying for an ASET Bursary, check out the full details below – that February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline is just around the corner...

**Debbie Siva-Jothy**

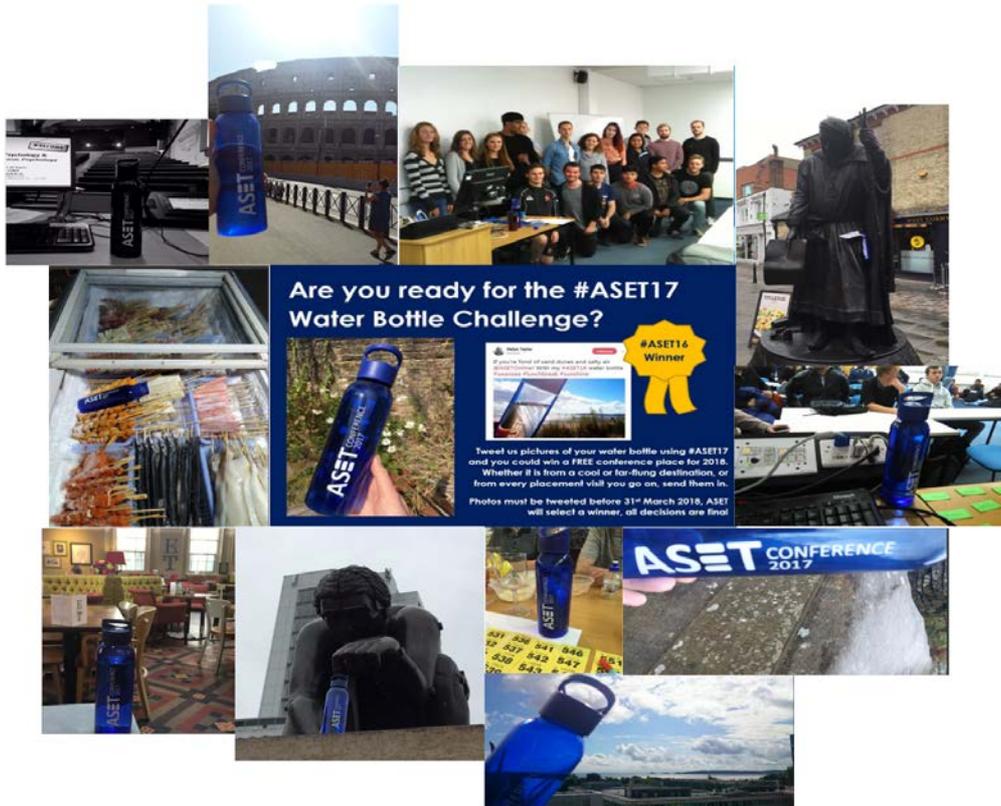
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### Competitions, Communications and Careers

*Emily Timson, ASET Trustee and Employability Manager for the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Mathematics and Physical Sciences, University of Leeds*

Whilst conference may seem like a distant memory - we are still enjoying seeing all of the **#ASET17** water bottle challenge pictures on Twitter - loads of you have taken up the competition enthusiastically – thank you! It's a big prize for the winner..... a **FREE full residential place at the ASET 2018** conference is up for grabs if your picture is chosen! So grab your ASET water bottle and get snapping!

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Feeling inspired?

Think you can top these pics?

There's all to shoot for and an ASET Conference place to win...

On the theme of giving - as we enter the festive season we wanted to run another mini competition for our 2017 Conference delegates - this time a festive themed one! So if you can work your festive magic and use **#ASET17** on Twitter, we'll be giving away a **free workshop** place to the member who posts the best Christmas themed tweet involving your ASET water bottle, by the deadline which is Christmas Eve 6pm.

And to get you started, some inspiration featuring *Khiana*, clearly impressed with her seasonal finery .....



Remember that ASET membership is not individual but institutional - and with so many staff and colleagues in our organisations having oversight over placement activity in some form, please share your ASET experience, and let them know about the benefits of being a member - they just need to email [aset@asetonline.org](mailto:aset@asetonline.org) and they can ask to join the mailing list and have access to the range of member benefits.

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Whilst we like to have fun with things like the competitions above, predominately ASET is here to offer you all a wealth of expertise and specialist advice in work based learning and relevant news and information from across the sector.

For those of you involved in roles linked to marketing we wanted to draw your attention to a recent BBC article <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-41984465>. There have recently been numerous complaints upheld against UK institutions which has led to the Advertising Standards Authority warning against exaggerating claims in an effort to attract students. For those of you involved in University open days or contributing to marketing literature be that a prospectus or even careers and employability web pages, the statistics and percentages are everywhere - the marketisation of Higher Education and continual measures has led to the necessity to compete, however this article advises caution and transparency in the use of any statistics.

This past week also saw a report by the Institute of Fiscal Studies <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-41693230> which outlined information regarding graduate earning potential, detailing how university, degree type, gender and background all affect earning potential. It is likely that longitudinal educational outcomes (LEO) data will increasingly become a measure we all refer to, and with Graduate Outcomes around the corner we may well be in a position to compare earnings with career satisfaction - with the latter being arguably more important than looking purely at employment outcomes and earnings.

*Emily*

### Regional Hub Meetings – December

The next Regional Hub meetings will be held w/c 11<sup>th</sup> December at a location near you :

North - 10-12am, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, University of Leeds - *Book your place by 6<sup>th</sup> December*  
Midlands - 10-12am, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December, De Montfort University - *Book your place by 4<sup>th</sup> December*  
South West - 2-4pm, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, University of Exeter - *Book your place by 6<sup>th</sup> December*  
South East - 10.30-12.30pm, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December, University of Brighton - *Book your place by 8<sup>th</sup> December*

These are **free events** for ASET member institutions. Places are limited (up to **two** delegates per institution may register) and allocated on a first come first served basis. To secure your place email [aset@asetonline.org](mailto:aset@asetonline.org)

The topic for December's meetings is:

### Troubleshooting for Placements

These hub meetings will offer the opportunity to get together with colleagues and discuss a topic that has become part of our everyday conversations as practitioners – **It's all gone wrong!** The hub will focus on aspects

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relating to the challenges that we face when supporting students who are on placement or in other work-based learning.

A challenging placement or work-based experience has wide-ranging impacts on the student, the University support team, academics, health and safety, placement support, not to mention the employers themselves. In this Regional Hub we would like to share some of the challenges that we have experienced, how we have dealt with them and what support mechanisms you can put in place. Knowing that the support exists is vital to the student, the employer and the support team.

Challenges that we have faced in just one year have included student dismissal from placement whilst in the UK and overseas, students who are very very homesick, problems with confidentiality, and most significantly terrorist attacks. Being prepared for and able to cope with these issues (which normally happen at 6pm on a Friday or at some point over the weekend) will help to alleviate the stresses of the placement challenges.

### *Discussions*

- What challenges have you faced with students on placement? By sharing a variety of challenges we will be able to develop and share tools and techniques for dealing with challenging situations
- How do we work with the variety of services across the campus to support students on placement?
- What processes and procedures are in place to allow employers to raise issues with the University whilst students are on placement?
- As practitioners, what is the limit of what we can do? Where do we draw the line?

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.

Places are limited (up to **two** delegates per institution may register) and **allocated on a first come first served** basis. To secure your place email [aset@asetonline.org](mailto:aset@asetonline.org)

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### 2017 ASET Conference Proceedings

[Proceedings](#) from this year's Employability Professionals Conference – the 24<sup>th</sup> ASET Annual Conference – were published on 1<sup>st</sup> November and are now available to download from the Conference Proceedings page of the ASET website, where you will also find previous years full proceedings.

The ASET Executive Committee are now looking towards next year's conference, which will be our **25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**, and will take place at the **Jubilee Campus** of the University of Nottingham – we hope you will save the date and join us next year **4-6<sup>th</sup> September** **#ASET18**. Look out for conference updates on our website



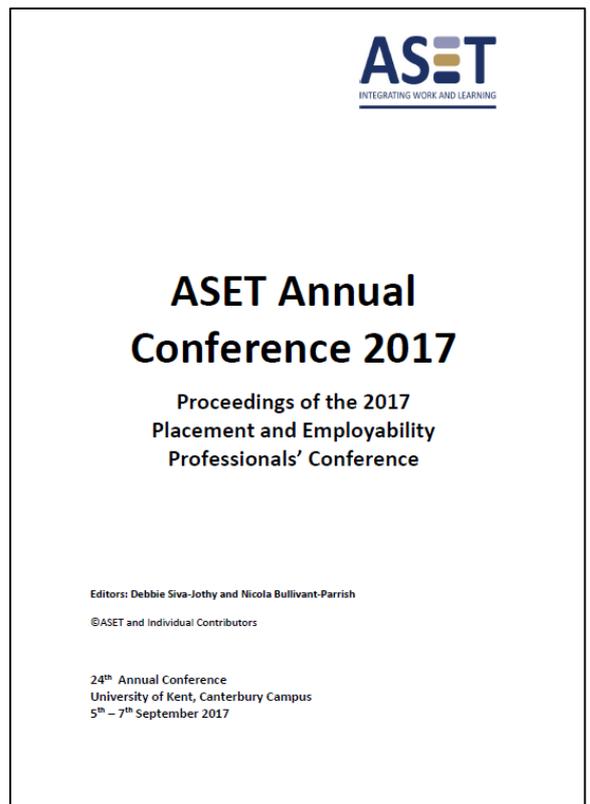
University of Nottingham, Jubilee Campus

### Staff Development Workshops

Full details for our Spring 2018 programme of workshops will be released in December – look out for further details on our website.

### Bespoke Workshops

- *Are you undergoing a department/team restructure?*
- *Have you been set a new challenge that you need support with?*
- *Would your team benefit from a refresher?*



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- *Are you sure best practice is being followed across your institution?*
- *Do you need help to look at a fresh approach?*

If you would like to talk about ideas for a **bespoke workshop**, contact Debbie at the ASET Office [aset@asetonline.org](mailto:aset@asetonline.org).

### 2017 Student Competition

**Deadline for entries Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 12 noon**

Have you told your returning placement students about the ASET competition?

*Calling all students who have recently completed a placement  
Celebrate by sharing your experiences in an inspirational way for a chance to win £400*



Full details for how to enter this year's Student Competition can be found on the ASET website. We are delighted to see so many entries in the UK and Ireland category – would be great to hear more about overseas experiences.

So far the **University of Portsmouth** is in the lead with the most entrants! It would be great to see all our member institutions taking part this year – it's always a rewarding experience to see one of your students gain recognition from winning, to receive a commendation from their head of department and, of course, a boost to their funds in their final year.

The competition is only open to ASET member institutions, so please do encourage your returning students to enter. Full details are on the [ASET website](#) on the ASET Competitions page, along with this year's **entry form** which must be downloaded and completed in full by the student entering and supported by you.

There are once again two categories for entry:

- Placement/Internship/Work experience undertaken in the UK or Ireland
- Placement/Internship/Work experience undertaken overseas

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### 2017 ASET Bursary Reports

The reports from the 2017 ASET Bursaries are now available to view on the ASET website.

**ASET Research Bursary**, awarded to the University of Edinburgh:

Award Winner: **Eilidh Steele**, Internships Manager, Careers Service, **University of Edinburgh**

Project Student: **James Hanton**, MA (Hons) Social Anthropology 2015-2019, University of Edinburgh

Project: **The Impact of Working During the Semester on Academic Study**

James' final report can be viewed [here](#)

**ASET Summer Project Bursary**, awarded to Aston University:

Award Winner: **Carolina Salinas**, Head of Placements, **Aston University**

Project Student: **Maariyah Imran**, BSc Sociology, 2015-2018, Aston University

Project: **Increasing student engagement and peer-to-peer support through the Careers+Placements Associates Pilot**

Maariyah's final report can be viewed [here](#)

If these reports have inspired you, and you'd like to take on one of your students for a summer 2018 placement why not apply for one of our 2018 bursaries.....

### 2018 ASET Bursaries

Our ASET bursaries are now in their 6<sup>th</sup> year and have proved to be a useful addition to the body of research into Work based and Placement Learning. If you are thinking about applying for a bursary this year, take a look at the wide range of topics covered to date:

#### 2018 ASET Student Research Bursary

For small-scale research into Work Based and Placement Learning



#### 2018 ASET Summer Project Bursary

For small-scale projects on Work Based and Placement Learning



- [Pros and Cons of Central Placement Units in UK Universities](#)
- [Work Placements in Safety Critical Industries: A Built Environment Case Study](#)
- [Work Shadowing Evaluation Project](#)

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- [\*An Investigation into Student Experiences of Summer Internships\*](#)
- [\*To what extent does peer-to-peer support encourage second year students to actively seek placements?\*](#)
- [\*Support for Students with Mental Health issues on Placement\*](#)
- [\*Piloting student media placements in non-traditional media environments: Teesside University School of Art and Media and James Cook Hospital Communications Team\*](#)
- [\*The impact of Placement Experience on Returning Doctoral Students\*](#)
- [\*Developing interest in year-long work placements?\*](#)
- [\*What determines student success and failure when searching and applying for placements?\*](#)
- [\*An Investigation into the maximum number of hours that an undergraduate student can work during the semester without adversely impacting on their academic commitments\*](#)

### 2018 ASET Summer Project Bursary

For small-scale projects on Work Based and Placement Learning



### 2018 ASET Student Research Bursary

For small-scale research into Work Based and Placement Learning



Each bursary offers **£2400 to a student** and **£600 to the institution** devising and managing the project, and typically covers 8 weeks of project work, culminating in an opportunity for the student to present their work at the 2018 ASET conference, and for their final report to be available via the 2018 ASET Conference Proceedings, and for download from the ASET website.

For 2018, two bursaries will be awarded:

#### **The Summer Project Bursary**

For a **current undergraduate** to carry out a project examining an aspect of your institutional practice, or exploration of a new initiative, with the goal of sharing with the ASET community.

#### **The Student Research Bursary**

For a **current student or recent graduate** to carry out a clearly defined piece of small scale research designed to grow the body of research into work-based and placement learning.

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Full details for the [2018 ASET Bursaries](#), and details for how to apply, using the 2018 Bursary Application form are available on the [ASET website](#).

All applications must be received at the ASET office by 9am, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018.

### Opportunity to take part in some online research

A quick reminder that ASET members are being invited to take part in a piece of global research run by the National Associations group of the World Association of Co-operative Education (WACE). It is a 10min online survey about the types of staff development that placement practitioners value, undertake, or would like to undertake. The research team use the term Work Integrated Learning covering activities such as cooperative education, work placements, internships, sandwich year, work-related projects, and industry-based projects. The outcomes will be shared with participating national associations and disseminated at the 2018 WACE International Research Symposium in Stuttgart. Your participation is completely anonymous, we will not be able to identify you. You are also free to withdraw at any point during the survey. To complete the survey, please click on the following link: <https://sv.surveymonkey.com/r/DQ3Z7T9>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the research lead Karsten Zegwaard ([Karsten.zegwaard@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:Karsten.zegwaard@waikato.ac.nz)).

The survey closes on **8<sup>th</sup> December**.

### ASET Good Practice Guides

ASET Good Practice Guides and the Toolkit to accompany the ASET Good Practice Guide for Work based and Placement Learning in Higher Education are available for download from the [ASET website](#), and to order in hardcopy (£3 per copy) from the ASET office using the [Publications Order form](#).

### And Finally

Your next ASET members' e-Bulletin will be issued w/c 11<sup>th</sup> December. Please forward your news/copy to [aset@asetonline.org](mailto:aset@asetonline.org) by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

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