

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



January 2015

Hope the New Year is off to a good start for you all?

2015 brings a fresh start for ASET with the launch of our new website (see lead article below). We hope to keep you up to date on everything “ASET” here, and will be adding to the site over the coming weeks and months. Plenty to see for now in this e-bulletin, which is also available for download from the website. The 2015 workshop calendar is almost complete and will be available in a couple of weeks, as will further details on the ASET Conference 2015. The next e-bulletin will be issued w/c 16th February aset@asetonline.org , so do forward your news as soon as you can.

Debbie Siva-Jothy

www.asetonline.org

ASET launches new website!

By Megen Hartley-Clarke,

ASET Trustee and Convenor of Membership & Communications Working Group

I am excited to announce the launch of the newly-designed ASET website:
<http://www.asetonline.org/>

Our website is a means of sharing knowledge and expertise in the field of work-based and placement learning. Our goal is to provide a user-friendly, resource-rich website that is easy to navigate and which has in-depth, universal and topic-specific information.

What's changed?

- ✓ **re-branded and re-designed** - we have a new logo and colour scheme, and the whole website has a more modern, clean and uncluttered look and feel;

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- ✓ **navigation** - content is better-structured and organised so you can find the information you need, faster;
- ✓ **content** - fresh, relevant, informative and current, we'll update information on a regular basis;
- ✓ **innovative** - we're embracing social media by embedding our Twitter feed and including links to our LinkedIn groups, and we're mobile-ready so you can use the website on the go!

Something new

As well as the usual areas you'd expect to see such as [News](#), [Events](#) and [Membership](#), there are three new information-rich sections to explore:

- in [About ASET](#) you'll find details of the Executive Committee members, governance arrangements, collaborative partners, and the four ASET working groups including how you can get involved;
- [Resources](#) contains our Best Practice Guides, Viewpoints, conference proceedings and other useful links;
- [Research](#) provides you with the latest research journals and papers, as well as information on bursaries and how you can get involved in the Practice and Research Network group.

Tell us what you think

This is just the start - we'll be developing content over the coming months so keep checking in to see how the website is taking shape. Whether you're just browsing generally on a topic or are looking for something specific, we expect you to be able to find what you need. If that content isn't there yet, please [get in touch](#). We are always keen to hear your suggestions.

So what are your first impressions of the new-look site? Please [contact the ASET office](#) and tell us!

ASET Practice and Research Network Spring meeting

The ASET Practice and Research Network Spring meeting will once again be held at Aston University, on **Thursday 12th March 2015**. The meeting is an opportunity for those conducting research about placements, work based learning or employability to come together and share outcomes, progress, and to discuss future work – including collaborations. Those attending the meeting will be asked to do a short (10-15 minutes) “show and tell” about their work, and to contribute towards lively discussion and debate. If you would like to come along and share your work please contact the office, by Monday 9th February, with a 100-200 word outline of your topic, and we will be in touch.

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ASET Student Competition – deadline extended

There is still time to encourage your students to enter the ASET student competition, as the deadline for entries has been extended to **31st January 2015**. The competition flyer for can be downloaded from the new ASET website via the following link:

<http://www.asetonline.org/awards-bursaries/aset-competitions/>



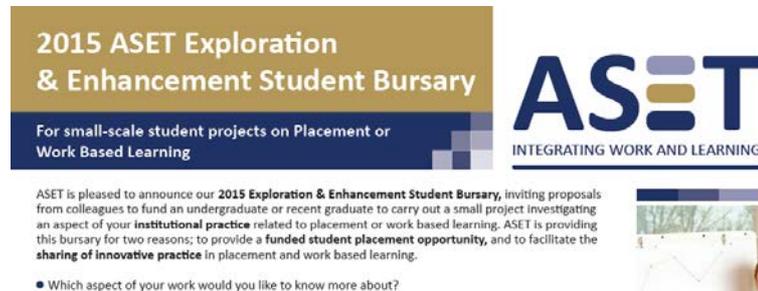
2015 ASET Research Bursary
For small-scale research into Placement or Work Based Learning

ASET is pleased to announce our **2015 Student Research Bursary**, inviting proposals from colleagues to fund an undergraduate or recent graduate to carry out a clearly defined piece of **small-scale research** into placement or work based learning. ASET is providing this bursary for two reasons; to provide a **funded student placement opportunity**, and to grow the body of **research** into placement and work based learning.

ASET will provide a bursary of £2000 for the student to carry out the planned work, of approximately 300hrs / 40 days; a further £500 towards the expenses required to carry out the work will be awarded to the institution upon successful completion, and presentation of the final report. The student will be visited by a member of the ASET Research Group about half-way through the planned placement period. The successful applicant must supervise the student's work, and oversee the preparation of the final report for the ASET conference.

ASET Bursaries 2015

2015 ASET Research Bursary



2015 ASET Exploration & Enhancement Student Bursary
For small-scale student projects on Placement or Work Based Learning

ASET is pleased to announce our **2015 Exploration & Enhancement Student Bursary**, inviting proposals from colleagues to fund an undergraduate or recent graduate to carry out a small project investigating an aspect of your **institutional practice** related to placement or work based learning. ASET is providing this bursary for two reasons; to provide a **funded student placement opportunity**, and to facilitate the **sharing of innovative practice** in placement and work based learning.

- Which aspect of your work would you like to know more about?

Now in its fourth year, the ASET Research Bursary 2015 is open for submissions, see flyer attached.

The Bursary is worth £500 to the hosting institution to cover expenses including attendance at the 2015 ASET Annual Conference, and £2000 to the student

appointed for a research project typically over 8 weeks.

2015 ASET Exploration & Enhancement Student Bursary

After a very successful inaugural year in 2014, where, owing to the high calibre of the applications received, **two** Exploration & Enhancement Student Bursaries were awarded in addition to the ASET Research Bursary, ASET is pleased to announce the launch of the **2015 Exploration & Enhancement Student Bursary**, inviting proposals from



2014 ASET Student Competition
Your Chance to win £500

Interested in writing about your placement experience to persuade others of the benefits of integrating Work and Learning? If you can articulate, in 900 words, your experiences from your recent placement, you could win **£500**. We are looking for short essays which have the ability to inform others about the value of placement experience, clearly express the value of your learning and do so in a lively and enthusiastic manner.

ASET is the Work Based and Placement Learning Association and our aim is to promote the benefits of integrating work and learning. We will use extracts from the entries on our website and in publicity material for students and placement staff, for them to highlight to future students the value of such opportunities.

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colleagues to fund an undergraduate or recent graduate to carry out a **small project investigating** an aspect of your **institutional practice** related to placement or work-based learning. ASET is providing this bursary for two reasons; to provide a **funded student placement opportunity**, and to facilitate the **sharing of innovative practice** in placement and work-based learning.

- Which aspect of your work would you like to know more about?
- What information would help you develop what you offer?
- What could you do that would be of benefit to students?

Whatever your role in placement, work-based learning or employability development, if there's an aspect you'd like to find out more about, ASET might be able to help.

Bursary flyers are attached. The **closing date** for applications to both bursaries is **31st January 2015**.

Can you help?

You may have seen already a discussion on LinkedIn initiated by Catherine Jandzio at University of Bradford? See below :

"Would anyone be willing to share what systems they are currently using to manage placement activity? I'd be particularly interested in hearing about systems you use that also help with vacancy advertising and employer engagement activity - if they exist! We are trying to put a case together for a better system than the multiple spreadsheets we are currently using!"

If you are able to add to the discussion, or have any advice for Catherine and the team at Bradford, please get in touch with her via the discussion thread, or directly on c.jandzio@bradford.ac.uk

New QAA publications

Please see the following notification regarding new publications from our colleagues at the Quality Assurance Agency:

"QAA have launched our new publications 'Employer Engagement: Emerging Practice from QAA Reviews'. There are two publications, a summary and a full report. They provide an overview of emerging practice in relation to the engagement that takes place between Higher Education providers and employers (otherwise known as employer engagement) in order to support UK higher education providers in enhancing their practice.

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The summary is available via this link:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication?PubID=2866#.VJK4xiusUec>

The full report is available via this link:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication?PubID=2865#.VJK41yusUec>

Engagement between Higher Education providers and employers has become increasingly commonplace within UK higher education. These new publications provide an overview of emerging effective practice in relation to the engagement that takes place between higher education providers and employers, businesses and industry. They are based upon an analysis of published reports arising from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) reviews undertaken since September 2010. They cover over 200 reports, and they have been supplemented by an analysis of a sample of providers' self-evaluation documents submitted in support of their QAA review."

NCUB Review

Those of you who attended the 2014 ASET conference, (2-4 September, Northumbria University) may recall the Research Paper presentation by Olivia Jones and Inga Sileryte, of the National Centre for Universities and Business (NCUB), entitled 'Undergraduate Placements in Computer Science Uncovering the Offer and Learning Best Practice'.

This paper has now been published, and is available to view on the NCUB website via the link below:

<http://www.ncub.co.uk/reports/computing-placements.html>.

An accompanying blog can also be viewed here:

<http://www.ncub.co.uk/blog/growing-experience-blog.html>

External Examiner Opportunity

Newman University is looking to appoint a second External Examiner, to work with the Work-Related Learning team at the university. This role will involve external moderation of the Work-Related Learning modules, across Levels 4, 5 and 6.

The tenure for the post will be 2014-2018.

Suitable candidates, with relevant experience and qualifications should send a CV to Simon Bicknell, via email or via post (see contact details below).

For further information regarding this post, please contact:

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Simon Bicknell (Senior Lecturer in Work Related Learning)
Newman University, School of Human Sciences, Genners Lane, Bartley Green, Birmingham. B32 3NT
0121 476 1181 ext: 2454, S.Bicknell@newman.ac.uk

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 13th February.)